THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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INDIA U19 WOMEN'S TEAM ON TOP OF THE WORLD

The Niki Prasad-led side beats South Africa in the final to successfully defend their title...

ALL-ROUND TRISHA STANDS OUT FOR CHAMPIONS

She was already a World Cup winner in 2023, but this time, G Trisha was the key architect behind India's success story. With 309 runs and seven wickets, she was instrumental in India's unbeaten run to the final. Even in summit clash, she took three wickets and scored an unbeaten 44 to help India get the better of South Africa by nine wickets on Sunday. Fittingly, she was the Player of the Match in the final and the Player of the Tournament

SECOND TITLE FOR COACH NOOSHIN

- Revered coach Nooshin Al Khadeer added another trophy to her cabinet having won the inaugural edition of the tournament in 2023
- She, along with captain Niki Prasad, had been with this batch of players for several months in the lead up to the WC with several camps and domestic tournaments being the key to putting together a strong squad

17

WITH 17 SCALPS, VAISHNAVI SHARMA WAS THE LEADING WICKET-TAKER

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Will collect more taxes in FY26: FinMin official

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

THE government is confident of achieving the income tax collection target for FY26 despite massive tax cuts offered in the Budget 2025-26—a move that will result in a revenue loss of ₹1 lakh crore. As per the Budget estimate, personal income tax collections could be ₹14.38 lakh crore in FY26, a 14.4% increase over the revised estimate of ₹12.57 lakh crore for FY25. The FY25 budget estimate for tax collection was ₹11.87 lakh crore.

The FY26 tax collection target is achievable, says a top finance ministry official, adding: "Our estimate for income tax collection in FY26 is conservative."

According to the official, with the tax slabs being revised and tax rates having been lowered for most in the existing slabs, individuals earning over ₹12 lakh but avoid paying taxes, would like to come under the tax net.

On Saturday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a slew of sops to ease the burden on the taxpayers. Her personal income tax proposals include an increase in the threshold up to which no tax is levied on income. The income threshold was increased from ₹7 lakh to ₹12 lakh, making any income up to ₹12.75 lakh tax free (after including the standard deduction of ₹75,000).

The new tax slab also significantly reduces the tax burden on all with the highest tax rate of 30% applicable on income over ₹24 lakh from the earlier ₹18 lakh. The new tax slab also increases the basic exemption limit from ₹3 lakh to ₹4 lakh, which means the first ₹4 lakh would attract no taxes. All these changes have been made under the new tax regime.

The finance minister has said that her income tax proposals would lead to a revenue loss of ₹1 lakh crore. The move to increase the income tax threshold to ₹12 lakh would also result in one crore taxpayers going out of the tax net.

Meanwhile, the finance ministry official mentioned earlier says that with the announcements, more taxpayers might shift to the new tax regime. According to the official, 78% taxpayers have already opted for the new tax regime, and with the latest changes, more taxpayers would join the new system.

'Tax cut to stimulate growth'

The income tax relief will stimulate demand and propel growth in the next financial year, Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth said in an interview to PTI on Sunday

Needed to convince officials about efficiency in collection and honest taxpayers' voice

Nirmala Sitharaman

PM backed tax cut, but it took time to convince officials: FM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi was fully behind the idea to cut taxes for the middle class but it took time to convince the bureaucrats, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Sunday.

Presenting her eighth straight budget on Saturday, Sitharaman raised the personal income tax exemption to ₹12 lakh from ₹7 lakh earlier, and also rejigged the tax brackets in such a way that those earning higher could save up to ₹1.1 lakh.

In an interview to PTI on Sunday, she said while Modi was quick to agree to the tax relief, it took a bit of convincing to get on board the officials in the finance ministry and the Central Board of Direct Taxes who are tasked to ensure revenue collection to meet welfare and other schemes.

"We have heard the voice of the middle class" who had been complaining about their aspirations not being met despite being honest taxpayers, she said.

Explaining the thought that went behind the big announcement, Sitharaman said the tax cuts were in the works for some time. She said the new rates would "substantially reduce the taxes of the middle class and leave more money in their hands, boosting household consumption, savings and investment". P9

US starts tariff war with Mexico, Canada, China; India spared

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

US President Donald Trump late on Saturday imposed broad tariffs on imports from Mexico, Canada, and China, sparking swift retaliation from North American neighbours. India was notably exempt despite Trump frequently labelling the country as a "tariff king."

India contributes only 3.2% of America's overall trade deficit, but has a $35 billion trade surplus with the US.

China, Mexico, and Canada are the top contributors to the US trade deficit, with Asian giant contributing the highest at 30.2%, Mexico 19%, and Canada 14%, according to the Research and Information System (RIS). Trump said a levy of 25% on Canadian and Mexican imports as well as an additional 10% tax on Chinese goods would come into effect on Tuesday.

"We have big deficits with all three of them," Trump said.

In response, both Canada and Mexico said they were preparing similar tariffs on US goods, while China said it would take "necessary countermeasures" to defend its interests.

Amid ongoing tariff threats, India has emphasised that its economic ties with the US are special and highlighted the established mechanisms between the two countries to discuss trade matters and related issues.

"India-US relationship is very strong, multifaceted and the economic ties are something which is very special...We have established mechanisms between the US and India to discuss any matter or trade matters or matters related to trade," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said last week.

India has been making the right noise to improve its trade relations with the US, with the Union Budget announcing a reduction in customs duties on imported motorcycles. India has also taken steps to open the nuclear sector to private investment as part of a strategic move.

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EXPRESS INTAKE

D'gere varsity prof among those held in bribery case | P5

India, Indonesia bound by shared heritage: PM | P9

Govt gears up to counter Oppn paties on 'ONOE' | P9

J'khand cops launch 'chocolate wars' on opium cultivation | P10

EXPRESS READ

Upper castes should take care of tribal affairs: MoS

Thrissur: Union Minister of State Suresh Gopi courted controversy on Sunday with his remark that persons from "upper castes" should be put in charge of tribal affairs. He, however, withdrew his remarks following criticism. P5

4-day Indo-Bangla DG-level talks soon

New Delhi: India and Bangladesh will hold a four-day Director General-level talk from February 16. The delegation-level meeting between the two countries is taking place for the first time after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government on August 5, 2024.

8-yr-old gang-raped? Girl's statement not clear, says SP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mandya

AN eight-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped on the premises of a government school on the outskirts of Mandya city. The incident happened on January 31 and came to light only now.

Three persons allegedly lured the girl with a cake and raped her after threatening her with a knife. The incident came to light when the girl's aunt found her bleeding profusely. The parents have admitted the girl to a hospital.

The Mandya police visited the hospital and tried to get details about the accused. They also visited the school and questioned the teachers and staff.

Mandya SP Mallikarjun Baladandi told TNIE that as the girl's statements are not clear, the child development project officer is counselling her.

"The child said three boys attacked her. She also mentioned the name of a Class 2 student. But we found that the student did not attend school that day. From her statement, it is not clear whether she was abused by students or adults. We are investigating, but no FIR has been registered yet," he said.

SET FOR BASANT PANCHAMI

Devotees line up at the Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj on Sunday, ahead of the Basant Panchami amrit snan on February 3, which is expected to register a record crowd less than a week after a stampede | PTI

Cong sets up 'EAGLE' panel to monitor EC's conduct of polls

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

DAYS before the Delhi Assembly polls, the Congress on Sunday set up an eight-member panel—'Empowered Action Group of Leaders and Experts (EAGLE)'—to monitor the conduct of free and fair elections by the Election Commission.

"It is a very serious message from Congress that the Election Commission is a constitutional body, and so far, its conduct has not been in line with its constitutional responsibilities of conducting free and fair elections," senior Congress leader Praveen Chakravarty said. "The group will ensure that the EC is held responsible for the conduct of free and fair elections," he added.

Congress leaders Ajay Maken, Digvijaya Singh, Abhishek Singhvi, Chakravarty, and Pawan Khera are panel members. According to a statement, the panel will first look into the alleged manipulation of Maharashtra voters' list.

Rahul Gandhi alleged that there has been an increase of nearly one crore voters in Maharashtra between the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls, adding that "something wrong" has taken place.

ELECTION TO BBMP LIKELY IN MAY-JUNE

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

THE state government may hold elections to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in May-June after exams to schools and colleges, and is likely to issue a notification by April-end, sources in the state government said.

R Ramalinga Reddy, a senior minister and BTM constituency MLA, told The New Indian Express that the government is working on the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill. Once Greater Bengaluru Governance Committee Chairman and Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad tables the bill in the Assembly, BBMP elections will be announced, Reddy added.

Rizwan Arshad said a public consultation will be held this month and the bill will be submitted after that. Legislation will address issues like splitting of Bengaluru municipality for smooth administration, development of lakes, forest cover, taxation, solid waste management and others.

The state government could come under pressure to hold the civic body elections with the Maharashtra government announcing municipal elections, including to Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, after the Supreme Court order.

"The government cannot drag any further as it is a matter of implementation of Supreme Court guidelines. The government may approach the court stating that holding elections in March or April will clash with exams and cause hardship to students, and will hold the polls in May-June. The notification to hold the polls is expected by April-end and once the announcement is made, the election has to be held within 45 days," a source close to the Chief Minister's Office said. Finances are being planned to hold the elections, said the source.

The ruling Congress feels it will have the upper hand in elections with its numbers in the Assembly. It is also upbeat because of its recent victory in Channapatna, Shiggaon and Sandur by-polls.

Changes in KIA airport closure timings for Aero Show

Bengaluru: The duration of closure of the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) from February 5 to 14 on account of the 'Aero India 2025' at the Air Force station in Yelahanka has been revised. It will close for commercial operations for only 40.5 hours now instead of the initially planned closure for 47 hours. According to a statement from KIA operator, Bangalore International Airport Limited, the new closure timings are

FEB 5, 6 & 8	9 am to noon & 3 pm to 4.30 pm
FEB 7	9 am to 11 am and 3 pm to 4.30 pm
FEB 8	9 am to noon
FEB 9	9 to 11 am
FEB 10	9 to 11.30 am & 2.30 pm -3.30 pm
FEB 11-12	Noon to 2.30 pm
FEB 13-14	9.30 am to noon and 2.30 to 5 pm

With an aim to plant 10,000 saplings, a plantation drive was launched on the banks of Varthur Lake on January 31. Around 1,500 saplings were planted on the first day

Varthur Lake tree plantation drive faces stumbling block

Local residents oppose initiative, say saplings are unscientific, unsuitable for lake

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THE environmental-friendly move to create a biodiversity park in the Varthur Lake ran into rough waters on Saturday, just a day after its launch. The government is taking urgent steps to rejuvenate the 445-acre lake with support from NGOs and experts.

In line with the MoU signed between the State and the NGO 'SayTrees' three months ago, a total of 10,000 saplings are to be planted along the banks of the Varthur Lake. The project was launched on Friday (Jan 31) by Mahadevapura MLA Manjula Limbavalli with around 1,500 saplings planted on the day.

A top BDA source told *TNIE*, "When the plantation drive was continued on the second day, a group of locals strongly opposed the planting and asked the workers to stop doing it. The rejuvenation of the lake is a very complex and genuine effort by the BDA to revive this water body." The localites state the saplings are unscientific and are not suitable for the lake. The group is alleged to be driven by the vested interests of a few influential individuals here, he added.

A representative of SayTrees said the species to be planted were discussed with environmental expert T V Ramachandra of the Centre for Ecological Sciences at IISc. "Only after he vetted them, we finalised the saplings that would be planted there. The saplings are sponsored by a firm as part of their CSR scheme," he said.

N Jagadish Reddy, a citizen, is among those strongly opposing the plantation drive. "It is a short sighted move. The saplings are being planted on wetlands and shallow areas. A biodiversity park cannot be created here and it violates the National Green Tribunal order. The distance between the saplings is very close and unscientific. We only want native species to be planted here" he told *TNIE*. Claiming that many active resident welfare groups and public in the area too opposed the plantation drive, Reddy added, that a Nakshatra park needs to be created here.

Reddy added that the government instead needs to give priorty to shift a pipeline that runs right through the middle of the lake. "It carries treated water to Kolar. The minor irrigation department needs to remove that to help us preserve the lake better. We have asked them repeatedly to do that," Reddy added.

Another BDA official said the plantation will be completed to improve the lake, despite opposition from groups that are allegedly politically motivated.

RWA in Horamavu takes lead in rooftop solar

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

DESPITE huge incentives offered by the 'PM Rooftop Solar Scheme' (Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana) to save power bills and benefits to the environment, here is a shocking statistic related to Bengaluru -- only 68,000 out of 92 lakh homes which have a Bescom connection have gone solar. A residents' association in Horamavu has taken the lead to ensure all homes under its fold understand and reap the scheme's benefits. Its success has now spurred many other RWAs to adopt it.

Out of 250 houses in Trinity Enclave Layout, 25 have installed rooftop solar in the first batch and the remaining are signing up to be included in subsequent batches. Full credit goes to the Trinity Enclave Residents' Association (TERA) for embarking on the solar movement with a missionary zeal. Its president G Kochu Shankar told *TNIE*, "A family ends up spending only Rs 10,000 from its pocket if it understands the incentives the scheme offers. It is left with free electricity for two decades after the initial loan repayment period is completed."

Rooftop solar installed at Trinity Enclave Layout in Horamavu

An average four-member family in the city consumes 350 units of power per month if it has the basic electrical appliances. It pays a bill ranging between Rs 2,000 and Rs 2,500, he explained. "If they opt for a rooftop solar of 3 KW which costs Rs 1.8 lakh to install, a sum of Rs 78,000 is reimbursed as subsidy under the scheme.

> **A family ends up spending only Rs 10,000 from its pocket if it understands the incentives the scheme offers. It is left with free electricity for two decades after the initial loan repayment period is completed** - G Kochu Shankar, president, Trinity Enclave Residents' Association

All nationalised banks offer subsidised loans at 7% interest which can be repaid over ten years. The monthly EMI can be broken such that it equals the regular monthly bills. The loan would be completed within 4-5 years. For the next 20 years, the household will get its energy needs met through solar and there would be no power bills," he said.

Four RWAs in Horamavu and six other associations from other areas in Bengaluru are taking the guidance and support of TERA. Shankar said, "The scheme is fantastic, but citizens of Karnataka have not understood the numerous advantages it offers." The government agencies in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have been able to reach the message effectively to the public and they are way ahead in adopting the scheme, he added.

Maha minister visits KSRTC central depot

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

MAHARASHTRA Transport minister Pratap Sarnaik, along with Madhav Kusekar, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC), and a team of officers, visited the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) Central office, depot and workshop here on Sunday.

Transport minister Ramalinga Reddy, KSRTC Vice Chairman Rizwan Nawab, the Principal Secretary of the Transport Department, the Managing Director of KSRTC and other senior officials held detailed discussions with the delegation.

They gathered information on the operations of premier vehicles in the corporation, labour welfare initiatives, commercial revenue, bus refurbishing and upgradation, HRMS, e-ticketing, KSRTC Arogya, the Rs 1 crore accident insurance scheme, and other initiatives.

EXPRESS READ

3 awarded Raman Young Sci Innovator award for creative projects

BENGALURU: The Innovation and Science Promotion Foundation, in partnership with the Raman Research Institute Trust, hosted the finals of the 7th edition of the Raman Young Science Innovator Award on Sunday. The national-level science competition aimed to spark curiosity and innovation among young minds and was open to students from Grades III to X. Over 3,000 students from across India participated. The contest, which began on Saturday, had three categories with hands-on challenges. Aravinthan V from Coimbatore won the first prize in Junior category, while Abir Singh and Keerat Singh Ponglia, both from Bengaluru, were ranked first under intermediate and senior categories respectively. The winners were honoured by Professor Tarun Souradeep, Director of the Raman Research Institute and others.

Children's online activities often misunderstood by parents, teachers: Study

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A recent study by Enfold Proactive Health Trust highlighted an overlooked gap between what children experience online and how well their parents and teachers understand those experiences.

Titled "Pathways for Healthy Digital Engagement: Perspectives of Children and Adult Stakeholders from Karnataka, India", the study, released on Saturday, reflects on how children's online activities are often misunderstood by the very people - within family and schools - who should be helping protect them.

The study, which gathered input from over 150 children aged 10 to 16 in Bengaluru, along with their parents and teachers, paints a picture of how children engage online—often in ways that adults don't fully understand. While digital platforms offer a global exposure for learning and entertainment, they also expose children to risks that many adults are not aware of, making children, parents, and teachers take a single perspective differently.

Dr Vinalini Mathrani, the principal investigator of the study, which is available in both Kannada and English, emphasised a key finding - children feel that their concerns about

online safety are often overlooked. Despite being at the forefront of online engagement, their voices are not always heard by the adults who are supposed to guide and protect them. This lack of understanding can make it harder to ensure a safe online environment for children, she highlighted.

At the report release, a panel discussion moderated by Dr Sangeeta Saksena, Co-founder of Enfold Proactive Health Trust, delved into the role that parents, teachers, and counsellors must play in protecting children online. Panelists stressed the importance of building trust so that children feel comfortable sharing their online experiences. They highlighted the need for adults to stay informed about digital trends, and to create an open dialogue with children about their online activities.

Rohini CK, Assistant Commissioner of Police in Whitefield, also addressed the need for quick action when it comes to online crimes. She encouraged both parents and children to make use of helplines like 1930 (Cyber Crime) and 1098 (Child Helpline) to report issues promptly, emphasising that early reporting is key to preventing harm.

The event also discussed plans to integrate digital safety training in schools to equip both students and teachers with the tools they need to navigate the digital world safely.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

03RD February: I'm going to focus on the heavens for a few days this week - and our expanding knowledge of science. Over the last few years, we have revised all our estimates of the age and size of the universe. We have increased the size by about 10 percent over the last couple of years alone, but reduced the age to about 12 billion years - between two and three times the Earth's age.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
The future looks relatively optimistic at the moment. In fact that's an amazing understatement! The stars are emphasising peace rather than war, so they may bring sweetness and light to areas of your life from which they have been sadly lacking. Make sure that other people feel good as well, and your thoughtfulness will give you credit.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
The week begins and ends with significant domestic indications. How about formulating plans today and then waiting about four or five days before putting them into practice? One thing is certain: conditions can only get better. But it may take an almighty effort to see that improvements last.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Your skills as a peacemaker could be in demand at home over the coming days. One thing to remember is that disputes will arise as a result of the sheer range of different options, not from any ill-will. And that's the simple reason why you should give partners the benefit of the doubt.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
You've probably had enough big surprises, but fate may still have one or two tricks up its sleeve. The only complicating factor is that misunderstandings may periodically create an atmosphere of farce. A partner probably needs all the support you can give them.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
You're still unhappy about financial matters, and quite right too. If you weren't dissatisfied with the conditions of your life you'd never make the necessary improvements. Everything will work out if you realise that you have another two weeks before agreements will stick.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Your stars are splendid, as they often are at this time of year. Play social activities to the hilt but take it easy if firm agreement is required. You might find that close partners are impossible to pin down, but then what is new? Perhaps your demands are impossible to meet!

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
You are generally quite keen to dominate your environment, though in the nicest possible way. Yet, at the moment, I doubt if you are genuinely able to exert any sort of real or permanent control. You see, there are just too many powerful emotions and volatile undercurrents.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Your social planets really are exceptional, as you often find in the current season. Just don't get all huffy if promises are broken and arrangements forgotten - it's all in the stars! Or is it? By that I mean that the best place to start might be a long look at your own behaviour.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
The Moon is moving from one lively position to another! I'd say that you'd do well to keep your wits about you and pursue your affairs as conscientiously as possible. Your interests are served best at home if you keep talking. Pick the right words, choose the most appropriate moment and you should win partners over!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Try and get everything important done as soon as you can, before fresh information arrives and circumstances move on. That way you'll be able to enjoy pleasurable propositions when they arrive, and get ready for more significant developments - just in case!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You may now have to do some quick thinking if you are to avoid personal complications. However, if at all possible, do bring in other people who can share any good fortune and stand with you in adversity. Also, do yourself a favour and keep a watchful eye on your cash.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
You have a great deal to achieve. Don't allow arguments or conflicts to make you drop out of the race. You're not normally so competitive, but neither can you really afford to let partners treat you as a complete push-over. Frankly, the more support you've got from friends, the better.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

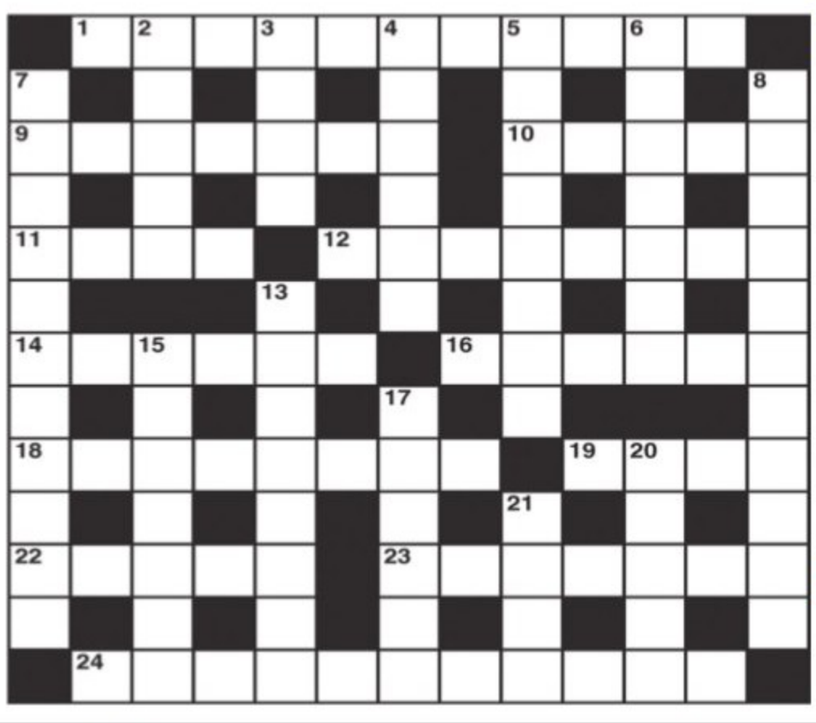
8		2		6	4			
						8		
	6	9		1	3	5	7	2
5			1		9			4
3		4				2		8
7			4		2			9
6	3	7	5	4		9	2	
		8						
			3	2		4		7

6	5	9	4	7	8	2	1	3
1	3	4	5	2	9	8	7	6
8	2	7	6	3	1	9	4	5
7	6	5	2	9	4	3	8	1
9	8	2	1	5	3	4	6	7
4	1	3	7	8	6	5	2	9
2	9	6	8	1	5	7	3	4
3	7	1	9	4	2	6	5	8
5	4	8	3	6	7	1	9	2

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 One of the top stylists? (11)
9 A venture at risk (7)
10 Something savoury found in Grandma's pickles (5)
11 Trendy accountant who lived in South America (4)
12 To put it briefly cheat the stupid (8)
14 Composer from Harlem (6)
16 Do wrong from start to finish (6)
18 Main source of strength for a nation (3,5)
19 Endless danger for a fairy (4)
22 Emile provides resin (5)
23 It weighs what's left (7)
24 A simple comparison (2,4,2,3)

DOWN

2 yet one wouldn't pay a high rent for it (5)
3 More trouble in the ancient city (4)
4 Moderation seen when lacking a fashion allowance (6)
5 Keep one's distance in an impasse (5,3)
6 Cost price (7)
7 He may decline to teach grammar (5,6)
8 Pressure a motorist to have a drink (11)
13 A lemon is squeezed in a pasta recipe (8)
15 Radiators mean he has rates adjusted (7)
17 Weakly one insect holds another up (6)
20 Low interest rate due to unemployment perhaps (5)
21 A girl finally loses direction sad to say (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Newton, 4 Africans, 9 Arrest, 10 Motorist, 12 Heel, 13 Sides, 14 Char, 17 Refrigerated, 20 Light sleeper, 23 Suet, 24 Agate, 25 Tree, 28 American, 29 Hairdo, 30 El Dorado, 31 Pebble.

Down: 1 Neathered, 2 Worse off, 3 Oust, 5 Frozen as sets, 6 Iron, 7 Alight, 8 Satyrs, 11 Rider Haggard, 15 Dig in, 16 Peter, 18 Spare rib, 19 Gruesome, 21 Estate, 22 Behead, 26 Bier, 27 Laze.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

ELWDL

CTYHA

SINIAR

LBAALD

That doesn't look anything like me.
Are you kidding me? It looks exactly like you! That's it! I'm done.
$15
WHEN ANOTHER CUSTOMER COMPLAINED TO THE ARTIST ABOUT A CARICATURE, IT WAS THE ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: ( ) " ( ) "

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: KNACK ABATE INVITE PEPPER
Answer: As the clouds briefly parted to reveal the summit, the climbers got a — PEEK AT THE PEAK

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
BENGALURU
03 BENGALURU MONDAY 03.02.2025 newindianexpress.com

The Mico Layout traffic police is conducting an auction of seized vehicles on February 6. Six 2-wheelers and one car will be auctioned from 11 am to 4 pm on Thursday. For more information, contact the Mico Layout Traffic Police on 08022943118

HOME GUARD HARASSES STUDENTS, HELD

Also exorts them on inquiry pretext

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A 40-year-old home guard was arrested by Sadashivanagar police on Saturday for allegedly harassing and blackmailing three girl students at their rented room in MS Ramaiah Nagar. The accused has been identified as Suresh Kumar.

The police said that three BSc students hailing from Kerala stay in a rented room. The victim in her complaint, stated that on Friday night, Kumar knocked on their door. When one of the students opened it, he falsely claimed that he had received a complaint about disturbance from their room. He then barged in without permission, misbehaved with the occupants, and threatened them, before extorting Rs 5,000 under the pretext of an inquiry. He also took down their mobile numbers and other details, the police said.

Suresh Kumar

The police further said that the victim's friend grew suspicious of him and dialled Namma 112. The police arrived and arrested Kumar, who was charged with offenses of misbehavior and extortion, and remanded in judicial custody. The investigation also revealed that he had extorted money from the students on the pretext of an inquiry, a few months ago.

ON THE WRONG TRACK

A person, allegedly drunk, drove his car into the Tyakal railway station in Kolar on Sunday. The vehicle went off the platform, and jumped onto the railway track. It was pulled out with the help of an earthmover. Fortunately, no trains were scheduled to pass through Tyakal station at the time | EXPRESS

Negligence on road claims 2 lives

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

TWO people became victims of negligence on the road, while three others were injured, in two separate mishaps since Saturday night.

Negligence on the part of a car driver claimed the life of 47-year-old Saroja, who was a resident of Kamakshipalya. The police said that around 9.45 pm, Saroja and her brother were returning home on a scooter after attending a wedding in Jnanabharathi. While passing by a timber shop in Pantarapalya, the driver of a parked car suddenly opened the front door, which hit the scooter. As a result, both Saroja and her brother fell onto the road, and the former's head was crushed by the rear wheel of a BMTC bus that was right behind them, and she died on the spot. Her brother sustained injuries.

Saroja

The Byatarayanapura traffic police have registered a case against both the car and the BMTC drivers, and have seized both vehicles.

In another incident, 24-year-old Jagadish KR, a resident of Tunganagar on Magadi Road, died, and two of his friends were injured. The police said that after attending a wedding, Jagadish, along with his friends Ravi and Sunil, were going on his bike towards NICE Road from Sunkadakatte, when a mini-truck suddenly took a right turn and hit the bike near the Byadarahalli police station. The three fell on the road and were injured. Passersby rushed them to a nearby hospital, but Jagadish could not be saved, while the two others were treated for minor injuries. The Kamashipalya traffic police have registered a case, and are investigating.

CRIME PATROL

Man held for smuggling fake cigarettes

BENGALURU: The Wilson Garden police arrested a man for smuggling fake cigarettes by concealing them in juice box packaging along with a fraudulent invoice. The police said that, accused identified as Yusuf, had brought the cigarettes from Delhi through a logistics service, along with a juice invoice. Based on a tip-off, the police seized the cigarettes worth over Rs 27 lakh and arrested the accused.

Narayana Nethralaya aims to reduce gene therapy costs by 70%

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU-based Narayana Nethralaya is developing gene therapy solutions that could drastically reduce the cost of treating genetic eye diseases.

Currently, gene therapy treatments, used to treat about 65-70 conditions, can cost as high as Rs 8-10 crore per dose. The institute is aiming to cut costs by 70–80% and has also received regulatory approval to conduct clinical trials for gene therapy targeting various eye diseases.

Beyond ophthalmology, the institute is also exploring gene therapy applications for muscular dystrophy, haemophilia, and certain cancers, to expand the benefits of genetic treatments across multiple medical fields.

Gene therapy targets the genetic roots of diseases. Unlike traditional methods that focus on managing symptoms, gene therapy works by correcting the underlying genetic defects, offering the potential for permanent cures, Dr Rohit Shetty, chairman and cornea-refractive surgeon at Narayana Nethralaya, said. "By injecting functional copies of genes or repairing defective ones, gene therapy aims to restore the normal function of cells, tissues and organs," he added.

The institution has also established a Genes Repair Regeneration in Ophthalmic Workstation (GROW) Lab. "The GROW Lab is focused on advancing research into gene therapies for several common but challenging eye diseases. Among them are keratoconus, where the cornea becomes thin and cone-shaped, and retinitis pigmentosa, a degenerative disease that leads to blindness. Additionally, the lab is tackling age-related macular degeneration (AMD), a leading cause of vision loss in elderly populations," Dr Shetty said.

How gene therapy works

Gene therapy involves the delivery of new or repaired genetic material into cells of a patient to correct defects or replace malfunctioning genes. One of the most common methods of gene delivery is through the use of viral vectors. These are modified viruses that are engineered to safely carry therapeutic genes into the patient's cells. Once inside, the genes can begin producing the proteins needed to restore normal function, reversing or preventing disease progression.

Dr Shetty told *TNIE:* "At present, treatments for eye diseases can cost up to Rs 8-10 crore per dose, mainly due to the expensive process of developing, manufacturing, and delivering gene therapies. However, the focus is on reducing the cost by 70-80%."

Mahakumbh of
Top-Notch Facilities
Divine-Grand-Digital
Mahakumbh of Unity
महाकुम्भ प्रयागराज 2025
Healthy Mahakumbh
• 6,000 beds in government/private hospitals
• 43 hospitals in the mela area, 381 doctors deployed
• 125 road, 7 river and air ambulances deployed
• Upgradation of CHCs/PHCs on key routes
Clean Mahakumbh
• Deployment of 10,200 sanitation workers in 850 teams
• 1,800 Ganga Doots deployed for monitoring cleanliness
• 25,000 dustbins with liner bags, 300 suction vehicles
• 120 tipper-hoppers and 40 compactor trucks equipped with GPS
Safe Mahakumbh
• 37,000 police personnel and 14,000 home guards deployed
• 2,750 AI-based CCTV cameras and 80 VMD TV screens
• 3 Jal police stations, 18 Jal police control rooms
• 50 fire stations, 20 fire posts, 50 watch towers, 4,300 fire hydrants
• 4000 hectares of Mela area • Well-organised in 25 sectors • 1,850 hectares of parking area • 1,50,000 toilets • 1,60,000 tents • 67,000 LED streetlights • 2 new power sub stations • 66 new transformers • 2,000 solar hybrid streetlights • 1,249 km of water pipeline • 200 water ATMs • 85 tubewells • Fleet of 7,000 buses • 550 shuttle buses • 7 new bus stops • 30 pontoon bridges • 9 permanent ghats • 7 riverfront roads • 12 km temporary ghats • 14 new flyovers and underpasses • Construction of 11 new corridors • 13,000 trains including 3,000 special trains • New terminal at Prayagraj airport
Sanatan Garv, Mahakumbh Parv
• Travel guide to assist devotees and tourists • Kumbh Sah 'AI' yak AI chatbot for assistance • Bird Sound Therapy for relaxation and inner peace • Confluence of artisans and craftsmen from across the country • Boat ride facilities for devotees at the Sangam • Crossroads bringing to life the tales of Vedas and Puranas • Captivating musical, instrumental and dance performances on cultural stages • Excellent parking facilities available
Kumbh Administration
Emergency Assistance
Hotel and Food
Achievements of UP
Scan to Chat
Send 'Hi' to Kumbh Sah'AI'yak No. 8887847135
Mahakumbh Helpline
1920 Mahakumbh Mela Helpline
1944 Mela Police
112 Fire Service
1010 Food and Civil Supplies Helpline
102, 108 Ambulance Service
18004199139 Railway Helpline
Information & Public Relations Department, Uttar Pradesh
UPGovtOfficial CMOUttarpradesh CMOfficeUP
mahakumbh_25/ upmahakumbh MahaKumbh_2025 https://kumbh.gov.in/

CM Siddaramaiah underwent a medical check-up at Manipal Hospital in Bengaluru on Sunday, after experiencing discomfort in his left knee. As per the doctor who examined him, the pain was due to pressure on the area, where he had previously undergone a ligament surgery, with no other concerns identified. All of the CM's scheduled programmes on Sunday were cancelled, as the doctors advised him to rest for two days

AS STUDENTS FALL BEHIND, GOVT NEEDS AN EDUCATION

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

WHILE students are moving from one grade to next in schools across Karnataka, many cannot read, think or understand basic topics. The latest Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024 reveals a grim reality — enrolment numbers may look good on paper, but actual education is crumbling. While schools struggle with learning and infrastructure gaps, even those attending regularly are falling behind in basic skills, from math to reading and problem-solving. Rural students remain the worst hit, with government schools grappling with inconsistent attendance, lack of parental support and a widening digital divide. As policymakers push new models and frameworks, the data makes one thing clear — Karnataka's education system is not only struggling, but it is leaving a generation behind.

The report, facilitated by NGO Pratham, aimed to address gaps in the education system. It covered 30 districts in Karnataka and 605 rural districts across India.

32.7% of Std I students cannot recognise letters, 39.8% cannot read words

As per the findings pertaining to 30 districts in Karnataka, 32.7% of first standard students cannot even recognise letters, while 39.8% can read letters but not words. Of fifth standard students, only 34% can read a second standard level text, showing that despite hopeful claims, literacy levels remain inadequate. Moreover, gender-based differences in reading proficiency are evident across all grades. In 2024, boys lag behind girls in Std III, V and VIII in their ability to read a Std II level text, with the gender gap widening in higher grades.

Longitudinal data, recorded between 2014 and 2024 shows that while the number of children who can read a Std II level text has improved slightly in certain years, there are significant disparities between government and private schools. For example, in Std III, children enrolled in private schools perform better than those in government schools. However, the gap has reduced slightly over the years, with a 2024 figure showing 37.8% of children in government schools able to read Std II level text compared to 60.3% in private schools, the report said.

Presence of multi-grade schools

The findings suggest that in Karnataka, in 2024, 89% of Std I children and 87.7% of Std II children in primary schools were sitting with students from other standards. In upper primary or higher classes, 77.9% of Std I children and 78.3% of Std II children were observed in multigrade settings.

Experts attribute the alarming decline in learning and reading levels to multigrade classrooms, single-teacher schools, and low-enrolment institutions.

Karnataka has at least 43,000 teacher vacancies, over 6,150 single teachers at schools and numerous multigrade schools where students from classes I, II, and III are forced to learn together under the supervision of just one teacher. "How can we be shocked when a third grader is struggling to keep up? This system is flawed, and expecting success under such conditions is unrealistic," development educationist Prof Niranjanaradhya VP said.

Is digital literacy contributing to digital dependency?

The report appreciates that smartphones have become a common part of children's lives, with 94.5% of those aged 14-16 having access to one at home. While this suggests that digital technology is becoming more widespread, it also raises a larger question - Is smartphone access among children truly being used for education, or is it creating a dependency that shifts them away from the physical activities and interactions that their age requires?

About 64.4% of children reported using a smartphone for learning in the reference week, but 70.6% were also engaged in social media. Moreover, when a child says they are using a smartphone for studying, how is that measured? Does it mean watching educational videos, reading online notes, or simply having a study app open while being distracted by notifications? Even if smartphones are being used for studying, is this the right path?

"At an age when physical activity, outdoor play and direct human interaction are essential for cognitive and emotional development, is growing reliance on smartphones leading children away from experiences that shape their overall well being," questioned child rights activist Vasudev Sharma. "Technology is necessary, but the way it is introduced matters. If learning becomes too dependent on digital tools, it could affect attention spans, creativity, and real-world social skills. Instead of encouraging a balance, are we unknowingly normalising a system where children see screens as the default solution for education, entertainment and communication, leaving little room for anything else?" he lamented.

This is digital dependency and not digital literacy, experts say, warning that if the trend continues, it would lead to mental health problems from a very young age.

Lack of physical education teachers

Data shows that over the years, more schools have been allotting time for physical education, especially at the primary level, where it increased from 59.7% in 2020 to 86.5% in 2024. However, having a dedicated physical education teacher remains a challenge. In upper primary and higher classes, the percentage of schools with a separate teacher for physical education has dropped significantly from 42.3% in 2018 to just 25.1% in 2024. Instead, more schools are relying on other subject teachers to conduct physical education classes.

While schools may be dedicating more time to physical activities, the lack of trained physical education teachers and proper infrastructure raises concerns about how effectively students are engaging in sports and fitness activities.

Experts question report

The ASER 2024 report paints a picture of learning recovery — one that educationists and child rights experts call misleading, one-sided and dangerously incomplete, with limited sample size.

While the report records improvements in reading and learning compared to previous years, it stops short of addressing why students were struggling in the first place. Instead of addressing or at least acknowledging these systemic failures, the report projects an illusion of recovery with learning levels coming back and in some cases, even better than the 'pre-pandemic' stage. With the findings only focusing on selective progress while ignoring the root causes of educational decline, Karnataka risks burying a crisis that is already leaving thousands of children behind.

The report, in one of the sections, mentioned that "the idea of every child in school and learning well, one feels, is within reach. Access to schools is complete". However, the ground picture painted by the data of the same report tells a different story — one far from reach.

With the report highlighting that private school students are performing better, experts question if the report is deliberately painting government schools in a poor light, while showcasing private schools as superior, thereby pushing the narrative for privatisation instead of highlighting where the government must intervene.

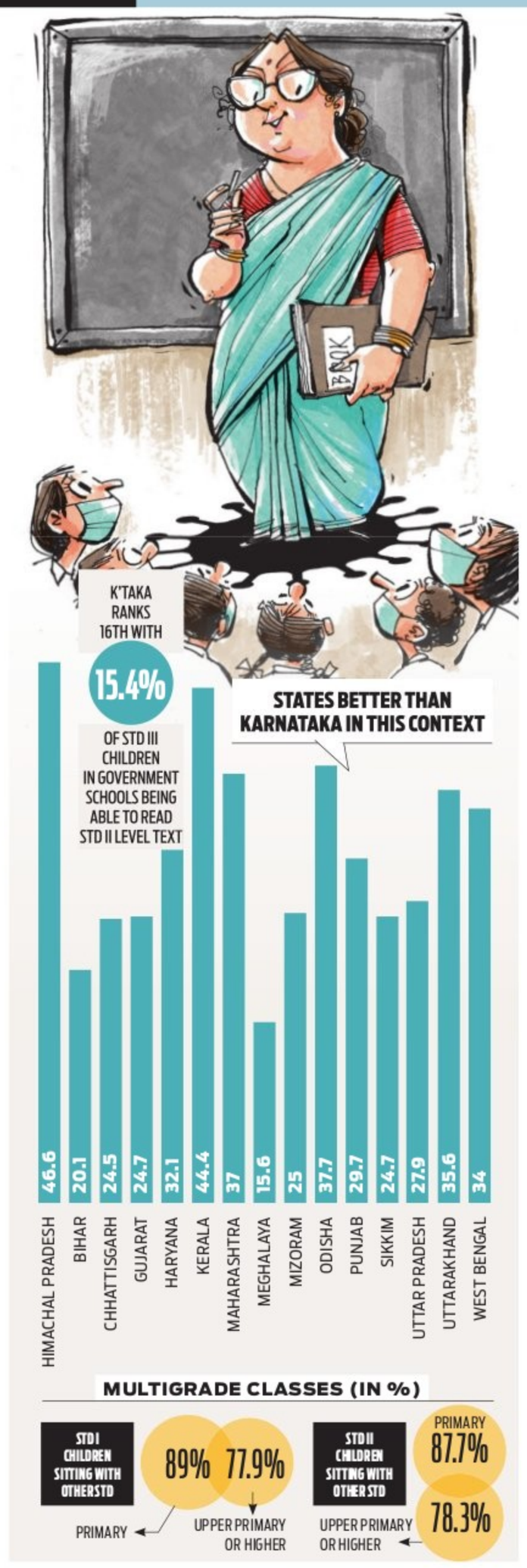
Prof Niranjanaradhya criticised the report for listing problems without questioning the root causes. The report and its findings cannot — and should not — be read in isolation, because without understanding the underlying issues, there will be nothing left to address.

"According to the findings, even the poor of the poorest will see government schools as inadequate and will be left with no choice but to move their children to private schools, hoping for a better opportunity," he said.

If a child cannot read, learn, or do basic math, why is it so? Are they struggling despite enough teachers, resources, and policies? What exactly is failing them? The report doesn't ask, doesn't connect, doesn't explain, Prof Niranjanaradhya said, arguing that the government is fully aware of the true state of education, and it must take responsibility. "State governments, too, cannot stay silent — they must take a clear stand, whether agreeing or disagreeing, but at least show they have a viewpoint on the matter," he added.

Educationists opine that a more constructive approach would be to emphasise why government schools are lagging behind in certain areas and where targeted interventions are needed, rather than letting the numbers indirectly paint a poor picture. The government's role in improving training, infrastructure and implementation mechanisms should be a key takeaway from such reports. Instead of merely contrasting with private schools, a deeper analysis of why disparities exist could offer clearer policy recommendations.

However, activists say that the government does not act on data. "What is the government really doing about the data," Nagasimha G Rao, Director of Child Rights Trust, asked. "The issue is not just about learning levels or lack of facilities — the data exposes long-standing failures that need to be addressed. This is about a broken system that needs fixing now," he said.



SORT OUT MICROFIN CRISIS; REJUVENATE RURAL ECONOMY

THE State Government is cracking down on microfinance institutions, using strongarm tactics to recover loans, and drafting a law to check their excesses. Stringent measures are required to reign in such firms that make borrowers' lives miserable by pushing them into debt traps. But, that's just one aspect of the solution. The current crisis, to some extent, reflects a larger problem – the distress in the rural economy -- and this calls for a holistic approach, including the law that is in the works.

The system's failure also seems to be contributing to the problem as people would not take loans at exorbitant interest rates of up to 30% if they have any hope of getting help from the state or the banks. This has created a conducive market space for firms to charge unconscientiously high rates of interests.

According to those in the know of the registered microfinance industry's operations, as of November 2024, the gross loan portfolio outstanding of the regulated players in the state was around Rs 38,000 crore. Overall numbers will be much higher. There are many players in the market, including non-banking financial corporations, trusts, moneylenders and firms offering loans online. Even some of those associated with the industry term it a 'messy' market.

The regulated players lend to households with an annual income of less than Rs 3 lakh a year. The average 'ticket size' -- loan amount for a single transaction -- is around Rs 40,000. Repayment has to be done in 24 months. The rate of interest varies from 19% to 23%. The interest rate to be charged is governed by the terms and conditions of the loan agreement between the borrower and the firm. In the gross loan outstanding portfolio, Karnataka is in the fourth position after Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

While giving loans they are required to check borrowers' repayment abilities by getting their credit details. It is not clear if they comply with it, but even if they do, the information gathered may not be accurate as there will be no trail of loans taken from unregulated players. Companies looking for profits take risks and so do the people in urgent need of money that they would not get from the banks.

Industry-watchers say that earlier, most people used to invest around 80% of the loan amount on productive purposes and 20% on consumption. That trend almost reversed post-Covid, which led to the deterioration of the asset quality, thereby impacting firms' profits. Perhaps that could be a reason for them to go harsh on the borrowers, though the firms deny the charges outright. Reports of people leaving their villages and in some cases resorting to extreme measures reflect the sad state of affairs.

This crisis in the rural areas prompted the government to jump into action. However, the government should be cautious as registered firms need to be regulated and not knocked out of business. In such a scenario, those unable to get loans from banks could be exploited by unregulated players and loan sharks.

Apart from taking action against microfinancers, the government needs to strengthen cooperative societies and Self-Help Groups (SHGs), which play an important role in fostering a healthy rural economy. Politics should be kept away from cooperative societies, and they must be empowered to expand their operations to give loans taking into account socio-economic changes in rural Karnataka.

The banks need to become more accessible and simplify the lending process, while the government needs to create awareness about the risks associated with taking loans at high rates of interest.

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka attributes the current crisis to the State Government's failure to give loans to people through various boards and corporations. According to him, there is a Rs 1,055 crore shortfall in the allocation to various corporations that provide financial assistance to people, and that gap is being filled by microfinancen companies. Perhaps that could be one of the reasons that aggravated the situation.

Now that the government is showing the resolve to address the immediate crisis -- harassment to borrowers -- it must also consider constituting a commission to study the factors ailing our rural economy and take long-term measures for its rejuvenation.

The law to protect the people and ensure fair play in the market is a welcome move. Perhaps, that is a less difficult task compared to the challenge of getting to the bottom of the crisis to make lives better for the vulnerable sections. Can the Siddaramaiah government -- which has implemented five guarantee schemes with a financial allocation of Rs 56,000 crore -- initiate measures to rejuvenate the rural economy? Or, will it end up dealing with just one aspect of the serious problem?

Groups welcome Congress' move to monitor elections

ENS @ Bengaluru

AS Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge constituted an Empowered Action Group of Leaders and Experts – EAGLE -- to monitor elections by the Election Commission of India, many civil society groups have welcomed the decision.

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) Director Venkatesh Nayak said, "This monitoring group is a welcome move that was long overdue. Vigilant opposition parties must monitor whether or not the process is conducted according to the rule book. If chunav ka parv (festival of elections) is to truly become desh ka garv (pride of the country), a strict vigil must be maintained. I hope the empowered group makes efforts to collect grassroots-level feedback from election agents, polling agents and counting agents from every constituency and seeks legal remedies against actions and omissions that violate the sanctity of the electoral process."

Supreme Court advocate Mehmood Pracha, also Mission Save Constitution convener, said, "Congress has at least taken a first step. We are ready to help them and share the extensive data and information that we have gathered after much research. But we wish to inform them that mere monitoring may not really help but we have to work towards a long-term solution. There are many civil society groups that I'm working with, all of whom are seeking greater transparency in the poll process."

Former IAS officer Devasahayam said, "This response from Congress is too little too late. They need to be more firm in responding to this serious issue."

DKS' supporters keen on CM post, Dr G says Siddu CM for 5 yrs

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @Bengaluru

WITH Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president DK Shivakumar's camp apparently optimistic that he would become the next chief minister, the ministers in support of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seem to have changed their tact, saying that the latter will remain the CM for five years.

At a rally organised in Channapatna on Sunday to thank voters who ensured victory of Congress candidate CP Yogeshwara in the bypoll, the sympathisers of Shivakumar wished that their leader will become the CM next. Magadi MLA HC Balakrishna, in his welcome speech, remarked that Shivakumar will reign in the top post soon.

Earlier, speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara, who has also thrown his hat in the ring, asserted that Siddaramaiah will be CM for a full five-year term.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar takes a speed boat ride, while inspecting the Kanva dam, during a public event in Channapatna on Sunday | EXPRESS

Replying to Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka's prediction that there will be a change in the CM's post after November 15, Parameshwara quipped that the former might have imbibed skills in astrology. "I don't know when he learned astrology. There is no development as such. When Siddaramaiah was selected as the Congress Legislative Party(CLP) leader, no time-frame was fixed like he will be the CM for two-and-half years and the high command would think about the next CM afterwards. We feel that Siddaramaiah will be CM for five years, and in the meantime, I am unaware of what the high command has decided," he stated.

Asked about his upcoming visit to New Delhi, Parameshwara clarified that he is not going with any political agenda, but on an official visit concerning his home department. "For political reasons, I needn't go to New Delhi as the AICC general secretary Karnataka in-charge comes to Karnataka, and moreover AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge is from our state. I can put forth my opinions before them," he said.

According to sources, Parameshwara is pinning his hopes on Siddaramaiah backing him if the situation arises, which was why he did not bother to meet the high command.

RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge, replying to Parameshwara, clarified that the "three biggest stakeholders", including Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar and Mallikarjun Kharge, have left the decision of the change in guard to the high command. It may be noted here that Siddaramaiah's son and MLC Yathindra had been reiterating that the former will be the CM for the full five-year term.

According to sources, PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi and Cooperation Minister KN Rajanna are likely to meet the high command in New Delhi soon to discuss repercussions of the change in CM on the party's prospects. They may also revise their demand for more DCM posts in the event of a cabinet reshuffle, after Siddaramaiah presents his budget in March. Parameshwara also wants a change in his portfolio and has put forth his demand before the top leadership, a source said.

After waiting for more than two years for a bullish metal market and a recent nudge from the Centre, the Odisha government has finally approved the proposal of the Steel and Mines department for auction of 10 mineral blocks, mostly iron and manganese ore

MoS COURTS ROW WITH 'UPPER CASTES' JIBE, BACKTRACKS

Suresh Gopi had remarked that persons 'born in upper caste' oversee tribal ministry

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Thrissur

Union Minister of State **Suresh Gopi** courted controversy on Sunday with his remark that persons from "upper castes" should be put in charge of tribal affairs portfolio. The actor-politician, however, withdrew his remarks later in the day following criticism from various corners.

Addressing a BJP election campaign meeting in New Delhi, Suresh Gopi said he had always wanted to be part of the tribal welfare ministry. He said it was time for persons "born in upper caste" to oversee the ministry for the welfare of tribal people.

"It is my dream and expectation that someone from outside the tribal community be appointed for their welfare. Let a Brahmin or a Naidu take charge, there would be significant change. Likewise, people from backward communities should be given the portfolio for the welfare of forward communities," he said. "Such a shift should happen within our democratic system," the Thrissur MP said.

"I have made these suggestions to the prime minister, but such things will take its own course," he said in the speech.

Meanwhile, the minister's statement sparked intense discussion in the state with criticism pouring in from various corners. Several social media users alleged that it was the "upper caste mindset" that made the actor-politician make such remarks in public.

Facing backlash, Suresh Gopi later backtracked, claiming that his statement was made with good intentions. "If my comment is not well received or if this explanation is unsatisfactory, I withdraw my remarks," he said. He clarified that his intention was to end discrimination. "I did not label anyone as good or bad; my only aim was to break free of this framework," he said.

Earlier, speaking to reporters in New Delhi, K Radhakrishnan, MP, said though he didn't hear the Union minister's speech directly, his mentioning of 'upper caste' people becoming tribal affairs minister was unfair. "A person who assumed office after swearing on the Constitution shouldn't have made such remarks.

Who decides the definition of the so-called 'upper caste'? Suresh Gopi always carries an image of this so-called upper caste person," the CPM leader said.

GETTING READY

A mahout bathes his elephant 'Unnimangadan Kannan' ahead of the festival procession of the Shiva temple in Ernakulam, Kerala, on Sunday | A SANESH

BCs over 56% of TG population: Survey

B KARTHEEK @ Hyderabad

THE Backward Classes (BCs) accounted for 56.33% of people in the state, out of which 10.08% are BC Muslims.

These figures were revealed by the state government after conducting the Socio-Economic, Education, Employment, Political and Caste Survey, a comprehensive door-to-door household survey covering 3,54,77,554 people and 1,12,15,134 families.

The remaining population includes 17.43% Scheduled Castes (SCs), 10.45% Scheduled Tribes (STs) and 12.56% Muslims, of which 2.48% are OC Muslims. Other Castes (OCs) make up 13.31% of Telangana's total population. Of the total, 50.51% were male and 49.45% female, the survey revealed.

Telangana is the third state in the country after Bihar and Karnataka to conduct a caste survey to determine caste-wise demographics. Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had called for "jitni abadi, utna haq" (rights proportionate to population) in the state in the run-up to the 2023 Assembly elections. With this demographic data, the Congress government is expected to pass a resolution urging the Union government to amend the Constitution to exceed the 50% reservation cap set by the Supreme Court, putting the onus on the Centre to act on the demand.

'16 lakh people opt out'

The Planning department, which acted as the nodal agency for conducting the caste survey, submitted its report based on the Supreme Court's judgment on sub-classification within SC and ST reserved categories.

A committee, headed by Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy, reviewed the findings and recommendations. Principal Secretary (Planning) Sandeep Kumar Sultania gave a detailed presentation to the Cabinet sub-committee members, including Uttam, Danasari Anasuya (aka Seethakka), Ponnam Prabhakar and C Damodar Rajanarasimha.

D'gere varsity prof among those held in NAAC bribery case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Davanagere

THE CBI's anti-corruption wing on Saturday arrested Davangere University professor **Gayathri Devaraja** in connection with a bribery case involving members of a NAAC inspection committee of which she is a member.

Gayathri was a former registrar (administration) of Davangere University and was serving as senior professor, Department of Studies in Microbiology. She was a part of the seven-member inspection team of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). The arrested persons included the chairman of the inspection committee and six members. Those arrested also include the vice-chancellor of the Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation (KLEF) in Andhra Pradesh's Guntur and two more executives.

In an official statement, the CBI confirmed that a case had been registered against the office bearers of the educational institution as well as the NAAC inspection team members. The allegations involve offering undue advantages to public servants in exchange for favourable NAAC ratings, specifically for A++ accreditation.

KLEF president Koneru Satyanarayana, NAAC former deputy adviser L Manjunatha Rao, professor and director (IQAC-NAAC), Bangalore University, M Hanumanthappa, and NAAC adviser M S Shyamsundar have also been named as accused in the FIR, the CBI said.

In an operation, the CBI arrested G P Saradhi Varma, KLEF vice-chancellor, Koneru Raja Hareen, vice-president of KLEF, and A Ramakrishna, director of KL University, Hyderabad campus, for their alleged involvement in bribing the members of a NAAC inspection committee for getting A accreditation, they said.

The investigation agency also conducted searches at 20 locations across various cities, including Vijayawada, Chennai, Bengaluru, Palamu, Sambalpur, Bhopal, Bilaspur, Gautam Buddh Nagar, and New Delhi. During these searches, the CBI sleuths seized Rs 37 lakh cash, six laptops, one mobile phone, and other incriminating documents.

The agency stated that a total of 14 individuals are involved in the case, and confirmed that a investigation is underway to uncover the full extent of the crime and identify others involved.

EXPRESS READ

Chargesheet in rape case involving actor filed

Kochi: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the allegations of sexual abuse levelled by Malayalam film actors after the release of the Justice Hema Committee report has submitted a chargesheet in a rape case registered against CPM MLA and actor M Mukesh. The SIT filed the chargesheet before the Ernakulam First Class Judicial Magistrate Court. The complainant, an actor from Aluva, had accused Mukesh of sexually exploiting her in exchange for offering membership in AMMA (Association of Malayalam Movie Artists). **ENS**

Naidu addresses poll rally for BJP candidate

New Delhi: Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday joined BJP's Delhi election campaign and canvassed support for Shahdara assembly candidate Sanjay Goel. Naidu said Delhi is the worst city in terms of development as the ruling AAP has ruined in the last 10 years. Focusing on areas with a large Telugu-speaking population, Naidu urged the residents in Delhi to vote for BJP candidates. He made it a point to speak in Telugu. Naidu strongly criticised the ruling AAP, stating that the party had failed to fulfil its promises, whereas the central government under PM Narendra Modi had delivered on its commitments. **ENS**

Tamil Nadu night patrol rescues 16 Olive Ridleys

SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA @ Chennai

FOR the first time since the crisis of mass Olive Ridley turtles broke out, a joint night patrol team on Saturday night managed to rescue and release 16 of the endangered turtles entangled in a trawl net off the north Chennai coast. Experts said this is the first solid evidence that the turtle deaths are caused by bottom trawlers.

Chennai Wildlife Warden Manish Meena said the patrol team intercepted a trawl boat operating within the prohibited zone of 5 nautical miles near Ennore and asked the crew to lift the net out of water. "To our shock, 16 Olive Ridleys were entangled in it. Fortunately all of them were alive. The turtles were immediately checked for injuries and released back into the water," he said. The patrol team consisted of officials from the state forest and fisheries departments, the Indian Coast Guard and the marine police. Olive Ridleys are a schedule-1 species protected under Wildlife Protection Act (WPA).

"This is the first hard evidence available to the authorities on how bottom trawling is entangling and drowning the turtles. All this while it was perceived as an allegation, but now it is proved beyond doubt. Sixteen turtles getting trapped in a single trawl net is quite significant," a conservationist said, adding that the state government should consider imposing a total ban on trawling at least for three months during peak turtle nesting season. Meena said a detailed investigation is being conducted and appropriate action will be initiated under relevant laws. "So far, we have caught 30 trawl boats operating illegally within 5 nautical miles and action was initiated."

Meanwhile, sources said the trawl boat caught off Ennore coast was from the Kasimedu fishing harbour.

CAUGHT IN A FIX

Tangadagi struggles to write in Kannada, BJP trolls him

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Koppal

KANNADA and Culture Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi was trolled severely by the opposition BJP after he struggled to write a Kannada word during his visit to an Anganvadi in Karatagi village in Koppal district.

After Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa was targeted in social media for his lack of Kannada knowledge, it's the turn of Tangadagi to be at the receiving end. The latter apparently struggled to write the word Shubhavagali – best of luck – in Kannada while inaugurating an Anganwadi building at Karatgi near Gangavathi.

BJP posted on X: "On one side is Madhu Bangarappa who cannot read and write in Kannada, other side is S Tangadagi -- Minister for Kannada and Culture, who is struggling to write a simple word." It added, "KPSC question paper has printed wrong Kannada Grammar and Kannada Schools are being closed. It appears that the Ruling Congress wants to erase Kannada permanently from Karnataka."

Many netizens also reacted strongly. Tangadagi is a three-time MLA from Kanakagiri. Hailing from Bagalkot, he migrated to Koppal district and has a degree in BSc.

Though Tangadagi did not err in writing the word, his struggle to write it, considering his ministerial portfolio, created ripples in social media.

@BJP4Karnataka

On one side is Madhu Bangarappa who cannot read and write in Kannada, other side is S Tangadagi -- Minister for Kannada and Culture, who is struggling to write a simple word

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Kirloskar Oil Engines Ltd. ("KOEL"), hereby announces today that, effective January 1st, 2025, M/s. Genlite Engineering Co. Ltd., with office in 56-57, I Floor, III Cross street, Officer colony, Metha nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, 600029 and manufacturing plant in F-83, SIPCOT Industrial Park, Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu, 602117 ("Genlite Engineering"), will no longer operate as an Authorized Generator Original Equipment Manufacturer ("AGOEM"). As part of this transition, Genlite Engineering will cease to use KOEL's name, trademarks, or any associated branding for providing services and does not represent KOEL any further.

Customers and partners in the region who currently engaged with Genlite Engineering are encouraged to reach out to KOEL team directly or to the AGOEM Kala Genset Pvt Ltd. Office and manufacturing plant at Sy.No.11/2 , 12/1, 13/5, 17/4, Plot No.42 & 43, Avverahalli Industrial area, K.G Srinivasapura,Sompura Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk,Bengaluru Rural - 562123 for any inquiries regarding ongoing projects or support needs. We are dedicated to providing a seamless transition and ensuring that all customer needs are met.

Kirloskar Oil Engines is committed to maintaining the highest standards of quality and customer support. We wish to assure our customers that this planned transition will further strengthen our commitment to our customers and will help us serve them better.

Contact details – 88 06 33 44 33 | koel.helpdesk@kirloskar.com

www.kirloskaroilengines.com

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BASKETBALL FEDERATION OF INDIA

PUBLIC NOTICE (LAST OPPORTUNITY)

By tender dated 27.05.2024, an organizing partner was found for establishing and running a professional basketball league owned by BFI, in India.

As per a settlement with Captains Professional Basketball League, the trademarks of BFI are licensed for the running of INBL's under-25 years men's basketball league. This change in circumstance was put to the General body of BFI which agreed to alter the terms of tender. The suggested changes are now put to public tender.

The tender dated 27.05.2024 (as modified) has been reopened for a period of 21 days providing an opportunity to all concerned to participate in a once in a lifetime opportunity of establishing and running a professional basketball league in India for BFI. The tender documents and the amended terms are available digitally by paying a fee of Rs. 2,00,000 (INR 2 lacs) of which details are available on the website of BFI for interested eligible bidders. The previous bidder shall also be participating in for the renewed terms.

The tender process will be overseen by Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Ravindra Bhat (Former Judge of Supreme Court of India)

For further information, please contact:
BASKETBALL FEDERATION OF INDIA
Email: nsblindia.tenders@gmail.com
Website: https://www.basketballfederationindia.org/
Address: 9th Floor, 27 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi - 110001. **Tel.:** +91 83685 47971

Bank Account Details:

SL. No.	Particulars	Details
1	Account Name	Basketball Federation of India
2	Bank Name	Union Bank of India
3	Branch Name	Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium Branch, New Delhi - 110003
4	Account Number	108510011002393
5	IFSC Code	UBIN0810851

Dated : Monday, 3rd February 2025

HDFC BANK LIMITED

Regd. Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013
Branch: #51, HDFC House, Kasturba Road, Bangalore 560 001
Tel:-080-41183000 CIN L65920MH1994PLC080618 Website: www.hdfcbank.com

E- AUCTION SALE NOTICE (Sale through e-bidding only)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

The Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Limited** (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) (HDFC) issues E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) indicated in Column (A) that the below described immovable property(ties) described in Column (C) mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive / physical possession of which has been taken as described in column (D) by the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** as per the details mentioned below :

Notice is hereby given to Borrower / Mortgagor(s) / legal heirs, legal representatives (whether known or unknown), executor(s), administrator(s), successor(s) and assign(s) of the respective Borrower(s) / Mortgagor(s)(since deceased), as the case may be, indicated in **Column (A) under Rule 8(6)** of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Secured Creditor's **website i.e. www.hdfcbank.com**

	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D&E)	(F&G)
Sl No	Name/s of Borrower(s)/ Mortgager(s)/ Guarantor(s)/	Outstanding dues to be recovered (Secured Debt) (Rs.)*	Description of the Immovable Property / Secured Asset (1 Sq. mtr. is equivalent to 10.76 Sq.ft)	Date of Auction and Time ---------- Type of Possession	Reserve Price (Rs.) ---------- Earnest Money Deposit (Rs)
1	Mr. Muniyappa Ramesh (Borrower)	Loan Account No. 629252232 Rs.41,96,880/- (Rupees Forty One Lakhs Ninety Six Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty Only) as on 30.06.2019	All that piece and parcel of **Residential Two Bedroom Apartment** bearing **Flat No. 206** on the 2nd floor of the building known as **'OMEGA ASTER'** having super built area **1170 sq.ft. And UDS of 421 sq.ft.** (undivided right, title and interest) with one covered car parking space in the building, situated on Survey No. 88, Present BBMP 59/88/1, No.D.A.516/2013-14, earlier portion of BBMP Katha No.59/88, No.DA/271/2013-14 at Chokkanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore.	14.03.2025 12.00 PM to 12.30 PM ---------- Physical Possession	Rs.40,00,000/- [Rupees Forty Lakhs Only] ---------- Rs.4,00,000/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Only)
2	Mr. Anand Anwekar (Borrower)	Loan A/c No: 637444290 Rs.1,05,77,128/- (Rupees One Crore Five Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand One Hundred and Twenty Eight Only) as on 30.09.2019	**Schedule A:** All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being converted land bearing survey No.1/3, ¼ and 1/5 having BBMP katha No.4047, situated at Kasavanahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East taluk, Bangalore 560103, admesuring 1(one) acre 36 (Thirty Six) guntas and bounded on the : East by : Raod, West by : Private Property: North by : Munireddy Shyamanna Reddy Marapp's Property, South by : Private Property **Schedule B:** An undivided share, right, title and interest in the Schedule 'A' property i.e., equivalent to **745.06 Sq.Ft.** **Schedule C:** A, 3 bedroom residential apartment bearing **FLAT NO.B-309, in Block-"B"** constructed corresponding to Schedule 'B' Property having a super built-up area of **1880 sq.ft.** on the **Third Floor,** along with 1 covered car park space in the basement in the project known as **'LOTUS PALACE'** being constructed on the Schedule'A' Property.	14.03.2025 12.00 PM to 12.30 PM ---------- Physical Possession	Rs.96,00,000 /- (Rupees Ninety Six Lakhs Only) ---------- Rs. 9,60,000/- (Rupees Nine Lakhs Sixty Thousand Only)
3	**Mrs. Anitha S** Wife of Mr. Sathish Gowdagere **(Borrower)** [since deceased] Legal Heir(s), Legal Representative(s), Successors and Assigns of **Mr. Sathish Gowdagere.** **Mrs. Gangamma** Mother of Mr. Sathish Gowdagere **(Borrower)** [since deceased] Legal Heir(s), Legal Representative(s), Successors and Assigns of **Mr. Sathish Gowdagere.** **And other known and unknown Legal Heir(s) of Mr. Sathish Gowdagere (Borrower)** [since deceased] Legal Heir(s), Legal Representative(s), Successors and Assignsof **Mr. Sathish Gowdagere**	Loan A/c No. (1) 608653235 Rs.14,21,994/- + (2) 647739081 Rs.11,55,202/- Total Amount Rs.25,77,196/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Seventy Seven Thousand One Hundred and Ninety Six Only) as on 30.11.2021	**Schedule-A**: All that piece and parcel of immovable property/land in the layout formed by the Karnataka Housing Board at Suryanagar Project, in land bearing various survey Nos of Iggaluru - Banahalli Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, measuring approximately **283 Acres** and acquired under three notifications viz., KA GRU MUM/BHOO SVAA VI 1/15/98-99, Dated: 14-01-1999, KA GRU MUM/BHOO SVAA VI 1/13/98-99, Dated: 14-01-1999, and KA GRU MUM/BHOO SVAA VI 2/90-91, Dated: 10-10-1990. East to West : 17.85 Mtrs. North to South : 36.00 Mtrs. And having a total area of **642.60 Sq. Mtrs** and bounded on: **East by** : Block No.8, LIG Type -1, **West by:** Block No.6, LIG Type- 1, **North by :**Road, **South by :**Road. **Schedule-B**: The vendor having sold 1(15+1Shop) i.e., {(642.60/932.35) x 61.35)} = **42.28 Sq. Mtrs** undivided interest in all of the above property to the purchasers. **Schedule-C**: All Those premises being a Residential Apartment/ Apartment/ Tenement bearing **No.204,** on the **Second Floor of Block No.7, LIG TYPE-1,** consisting of 15 and 1 Shop residential apartments/in the Multistoried Building/Block constructed on the property described in Schedule 'A' hereto (including one half portion in depth of the joints between the ceiling of the apartment and floor of the apartment above it and internal wall and external wall between such levels). **Schedule of Tenement Referred to:** The Boundary Schedule of the Apartment Bearing **No.204/L1/B7** is Bounded On: The East By: Flat No.201 L1 B8, The West By: Flat No.201 L1 B7, The North By: Flat No.203 L1 B7, The South By: Open to Sky. Containing Kitchen, Hall, Bath & Toilet and **2 Bedrooms** approximately measuring 61.35 Sq. Mtrs super built area and joint undivided interest/ownership in the common space, passages, pipes drains and staircase.	14.03.2025 12.00 PM to 12.30 PM ---------- Physical Possession	Rs.16,90,000 /- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Ninety Thousand Only) ---------- Rs.1,69,000 /- (Rupees One Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Only)
4	Mr. M. Ravi (Borrower) Mrs. Idumban Manickam (Co-Borrower)	Loan A/c No. (1) 623003841 Rs.8,58,227/- (2) 623268480 Rs.7,88,934/- Total Amount Rs.16,47,161/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakhs Forty Seven Thousand One Hundred and Sixty One Only) as on 01.03.2022	All the piece and parcel of the residential apartment bearing No. **G4, E type, on the Ground Floor,** having a **super built up area of 1156 sq. ft.** in Block A in the project **'ELITE GREEN WOODS'** and a UDS (undivided, right, title share and interest) of **553 sq. ft.** along with one covered car parking situated on the land covered vide order no. BDS:ALN:SR(S):02/2005-06 bearing Sy.No.22/1, Chikkatoguru Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bengaluru.	14.03.2025 12.00 PM to 12.30 PM ---------- Physical Possession	Rs.43,00,000/- (Rupees Forty Three Lakhs Only) ---------- Rs.4,30,000 /- (Rupees Four Lakhs Thirty Thousand Only)
5	Mr. Mallikarjun S Manta (Borrower)	Loan A/c No. 650493772 Rs.23,11,716/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakhs Eleven Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixteen Only) as on 28.02.2022	**Schedule-A:** All the piece and parcel of the Property bearing **Sy Nos. 30, 31 & 32, measuring 13 Acre 01 Guntas,** situated at Adigarakallahalli, Sarjapur Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban, within the revenue jurisdiction of BMRDA, Bangalore, in the Project called as **'La-Ville Township',** and bounded on: **North by:** Survey No 28 and 29, **South by :** Survey No 47, **East by :** Survey No 142 and 145, **West by :** Survey No 177. **Schedule-B:** All the piece and parcel of Residential Plot bearing **No.72,** having E Khatha No. **150200102700422540, No. 248/72** being residential Plot measuring East to West 5.943 mtrs. and North to South 16.960 mtrs., in all measuring **100.80 Sq. Mtrs.** in the Schedule 'A' Property situated at Adigarakallahalli, Sarjapur Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban and bounded on: **East by :** Park, **West by :** Road, **North by :** Park, **South by :** Site No. 71. And any construction thereon present and future.	14.03.2025 12.00 PM to 12.30 PM ---------- Physical Possession	Rs.24,00,000 /- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakhs Only) ---------- Rs.2,40,000/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Forty Thousand Only)
6	Mr. Srikanth M M (Borrower) M/S M Y S Enterprises (Co-Borrower)	Loan A/c No. (1) 624210213 Rs.19,59,093/- (2) 625371590 Rs.51,427/- Total Amount Rs.20,10,520/- (Rupees Twenty Lakhs Ten Thousand Five Hundred and Twenty Only) as on 28.02.2022	**Schedule-A:** All that piece and parcel residential converted lands bearing **Sy.Nos.366/1,** admeasuring **9.36 guntas, 366/2** admeasuring **08 guntas, 367/2** admeasuring **27.44 guntas and 367/1** admeasuring **28.45 guntas** totally measuring about **1 acre 33.60 guntas (7448.92 Square Meters or 80150 Square Feet)** vide conversion order bearing No.ALN(A)(K&A)S.R. 138/05-06, dated:30.12.2008 renewed on 11.05.2011 by the Special Deputy Commissioner Bangalore District, situated at Marasur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, and bounded on: **East by :** Survey Nos.354 & 360, **West by :** Road, **North by :** Survey Nos.365,364/1A, 364/2, 362/2 & 360, **South by :** Survey No.367/3 & 367/4. **Schedule-B: 224 Sq. ft.** of undivided share, right, title interest and ownership in schedule 'A' Property. **Schedule-C:** ALL that residential Apartment bearing **No. SWATHI-801,** having **E-Katha PID No.150200101800420158, Property No.3601/185, Swathi 801** having a super built up area of about **497 Sq. Ft.(46.17 Sq. Mts.)** which is inclusive of balconies, utility space, staircase and proportionate common areas, constructed on the Eight Floor of Swathi Block, in the apartment complex known as **"ASWANI SITARA"** having R.C.C Roofing, vitrified and ceramic flooring, wooden doors and aluminum glazed windows, including proportionate share of common areas with the floors, ceiling and walls between apartments jointly belonging to such apartment owners equally along with **ONE COVERED CAR PARKING SPACE** on the stilt floor.	14.03.2025 12.00 PM to 12.30 PM ---------- Physical Possession	Rs.14,00,000/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Only) ---------- Rs. 1,40,000/- (Rupees One Lakhs Forty Thousand Only)
7	P Suresh (Borrower)	Loan Account No. (1) 622187410 Rs.35,44,790/- (2) 628119969 Rs.6,95,189/- (3) 628358929 Rs.1,22,332/- Total Amount Rs.43,62,372/- (Rupees Forty Three Lakhs Sixty Two Thousand Three Hundred and Seventy Two Only) as on 31.01.2023	**Schedule - A:** All that piece and parcel of property bearing **Survey No. 30,** presently coming under the administrative jurisdiction of Bhruath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike **Ward No. 12,** having Municipal No. 4, situated at Kammagondanahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, **measuring 14472.8 Square Meters (1,55,727 Square Feet)** out of total extent of 4 acres 11 Guntas, duly converted for non-agricultrual Residential purpose vide Conversion Order bearing No. ALN:(NY)SR:2/07-08, dated 08.04.2009 and bounded on the **East by :** Property belonging to Vishveshwariah, **West by :** Road from Kammagondanahalli to Lakshmipura, **North by :** Boundary of Hebbagere and Jarakbande Kaval, **South by :** Property belonging to Narasimaiah and others. **Schedule - B: 0.40** of the SBA of Undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the land in Schedule A' Property which comes to **336 Square Feet.** **Schedule - C:** All that Residential Apartment bearing **No. 016 in Ground Floor of TULIP Block, "DIVYA JSR LIMELITE"** being built in Schedule 'A' Property and measuring **840 Sq. Feet of Super built up area** which is inclusive of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use with right to use **One Open Car Parking Space.**	14.03.2025 12.00 PM to 12.30 PM ---------- Physical Possession	Rs.38,20,000/- (Rupees Thirty Eight Lakhs Twenty Thousand Only) ---------- Rs.3,82,000/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand Only)
8	Mr. Ajith Kumar N (Borrower)	Loan A/c No: 631172902 Rs.29,36,094/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakhs Thirty Six Thousand Ninety Four Only) as on 31.05.2023,	All that piece and parcel of the **Apartment bearing No.103,** Gram Panchayath (Khatha) Property ID No.150200101300720531, in the **01st Floor,** situated within Block No.23 in the building bearing the name and style **"VBHC VAIBHAVA"** admeasuring **711 square feet of super built-up-area and comprising of 2 BHK, along with None Car parking spaces,** along with 353 Square feet of undivided right, title and interest in the land bearing Sy.Nos.9/1A, 9/1B, 9/2, 10/1, 93, 95/1, 95/2, 8, 9/3 and 10/2 situated at Byagadadevanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore and bounded on: **East by :** Block 22/106, **West by :** Flat No.104, **North by :** Flat No.102, **South by :** Road.	14.03.2025 12.00 PM to 12.30 PM ---------- Physical Possession	Rs.24,00,000/- [Rupees Twenty Four Lakhs Only] ---------- Rs.2,40,000/- [Rupees Two Lakh Forty Thousands Only]
9	Mr. Ajith Kumar N (Borrower)	Loan A/c No. (1) 629414366 Rs.30,30,350/- (2) 630748284 Rs.1,16,222/- Total Amount Rs.31,46,572/- (Rupees Thirty One Lakhs Forty Six Thousand Five Hundred and Seventy Two Only) as on 31.05.2023	All that piece and parcel of the **Apartment bearing No.703,** Gram Panchayath (Khatha) Property ID No.150200101300722051, in the **7th Floor,** situated within **Block No.11** in the building bearing the name and style **"VBHC VAIBHAVA"** admeasuring **620 Square feet of super built up area and comprising of 2 BHK, Covered car parking space,** along with 308 Square feet of undivided right, title and interest in the land bearing Sy.Nos.9/1A, 9/1B, 9/2, 10/1, 93, 95/1, 95/2, 8, 9/3 and 10/2 situated at Byagadadevanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore and bounded on: **East by :** Property bearing Apartment B12/706, **West by :** Property bearing Apartment No.704, **North by :** Property bearing Apartment No.702, **South by :** Road.	14.03.2025 12.00 PM to 12.30 PM ---------- Physical Possession	Rs.21,50,000/- [Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only] ---------- Rs.2,15,000/- [Rupees Two Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Only]
10	**Mrs. Meenakshi** Mother of Mr. Ganesh Vaidyanathan (Borrower) [since deceased], Legal Heir(s), Legal Representative(s), Successors and Assigns of Mr. Ganesh Vaidyanathan **Ms. Sahana Ganesh Aliyas Hana Ganesh** Daughter of Mr. Ganesh Vaidyanathan (Borrower) [since deceased], Represented by Natural Guardian Mrs. Bharathi Sundaram Chandrashekar Kunj, Legal Heir(s), Legal Representative(s), Successors and Assigns of Mr. Ganesh Vaidyanathan **Master Sparsh Ganesh** Son of Mr. Ganesh Vaidyanathan (Borrower) [since deceased], Represented by Natural Guardian Mrs. Bharathi Sundaram Chandrashekar Kunj, Legal Heir(s), Legal Representative(s), Successors and Assigns of Mr. Ganesh Vaidyanathan **And other known and unknown Legal Heir(s) of Mr. Ganesh Vaidyanathan (Borrower)** [since deceased] Legal Heir(s), Legal Representative(s), Successors and Assigns of Mr. Ganesh Vaidyanathan	Loan A/c No. 621463939 Rs.88,24,161/- (Rupees Eighty Eight Lakhs Twenty Four Thousand One Hundred and Sixty One Only) as on 31.05.2023	**Schedule "A" Property :** All that converted land bearing Mahadevapura **City Municipal Katha No.108, measuring 3,53,925 Sq.ft., (Survey No. 16, measuring 5 Acres 6 Guntas and Survey No. 45** measuring **2 Acres 39 Guntas,** Total **8 Acres 5 Guntas**), situated Chinnapanahlli Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk and Bounded as follows: **East by :** By Millennium Habitat Apartments and the common Road, **West by :** By remaining portion of Survey No.16, **North by :** By remaining portion of Survey No.16, **South by :** By 40 feet Road. **Schedule "B" Property : Item -I : 705 Sq.ft.,** undivided share, right, title and interest in schedule "A" property. **Item -II :** A Three Bed Rooms **Flat bearing No. 311,** in the Third Floor of **"F" Block** in the Building known as **"HABITAT SPLENDOUR"** constructed on the property described in schedule "A" hereto with a built up area of **1261 Sq.ft.** with right to the use common of **489 Sq.ft., BBMP Katha No.108/373-F-311-F311/1.** Flooring Vitrified tiles. **Schedule "C" Property : Item -I : 235 Sq.ft.,** undivided share, right, title and interest in schedule "A" property. **Item -II :** A single Bed Room Pent House bearing **No.311/1,** in the Terrace Floor of **"F" Block** with right to exclusive use of terrace area of **1050 sq.ft** in the Building known as **"HABTAT SPLENDOUR"** constructed on the property described in Schedule "A" hereto with a built up area of **463 sq.ft.** of with right to the use common area of **92 sq.ft.,** with right to use a cellar car parking space one Number bearing **BBMP Katha No.108/373-F-311-F311/1.** Flooring Vitrified tiles.	14.03.2025 12.00 PM to 12.30 PM ---------- Physical Possession	Rs.1,34,50,000/- (Rupees One Crore Thirty Four Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only) ---------- Rs.13,45,000/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Forty Five Thousand Only)
11	Mr. Avijit Ghosh (Borrower) Mrs. Ghosh Sreema (Co-Borrower)	Loan A/c No. 624092662 Rs.17,91,435/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakhs Ninety One Thousand Four Hundred and Thirty Five Only) as on 31.08.2023	**Schedule-A :** All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted lands totally measuring about **11 Acres and 18 Guntas** including the Kharab Land in **Survey Nos.39/1, 39/2, 40/3 and 42/1** all situated at M.Medehalli, Attibele Hobli, Anekel Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, Bangalore, and bounded on the: East by : Lands in Survey No.43, West by : Road, North by : Mayasandra Gadi, South by : Lands in Survey No.41 **Schedule-B :** The undivided share, right, title and interest in the Schedule 'A' Property mentioned above works out to **314.33 Square Feet.** **Schedule-C:** Residential Apartment bearing **No.B-206, PID No.150200101700620803, Assessment Number.1267/B -206,** and **Second Floor of Tower-12A/Block-3** consists of One Hall, Two Bed Room, Kitchen, Bath Room and a Balcony in the Residential Apartment Complex known as **"JANAADHAR SHUBHA"** Constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property, having a super built up area of **650 Sq.Ft** with vitrified flooring and the proportionate share in the common areas, such as, passage/s, stair/s, duct/s, well and/or room/s, water, drainage and/or electrical conduit/s and/or other area/s used in common with the Purchaser/s of other Apartment/s and is bounded on: **East by :** Open Space, **West by** : B- 205, **North by :** Open Space, **South by :** Open Space & Lobby.	14.03.2025 12.00 PM to 12.30 PM ---------- Physical Possession	Rs.16,00,000/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakhs Only) ---------- Rs.1,60,000/- (Rupees One Lakhs Sixty Thousand Only)
12	Mr Anandaraaj (Borrower)	Loan A/c No: (1) 632814533 Rs.39,08,451/- (2) 633320147 Rs. 1,13,612/- Total Amount : Rs.40,22,063/- (Rupees Forty Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Sixty Three Only) as on 31.10.2023	**Schedule A:** All that piece and parcel of residential converted land bearing **Sy. Nos. 115/1 & 115/2, measuring 1 Acre 20 Guntas,** situated at Madiwala Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District and an apartment Building constructed thereon comprising of Stilt, Ground and Three Upper Floors consisting of 100 flats together with all rights appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the: **East by** : Sy No. 94, **West by** Sy No. 114 and 117, **North by** : Sy No. 95 belongs to Revanna, **South by** : Sy No. 116 belongs to Vakil Layout and Sy. No. 126. **Schedule B:** All that piece and parcel of **Flat bearing No. 017 at Block B in Ground Floor,** e Khatha No. 150200101800621797, measuring **799.08 Sq.ft.,** carpet area consisting of **2 Bed Rooms** with RCC roofing. Vitrified Flooring in Living Room, Wooden door for Main Door and aluminum windows, including proportionate share in common area such as passage, lobbies, staircase, contained in the residential apartment complex known as **"VAKIL MAGNOLIA APARTMENT"** with **1 car parking space** exclusively earmarked for the sole use and enjoyment of the Purchase r/s. **East by** : Open Space, **West by :** Open Space & Portion of Corridor, **North by :** Flat No - C 018, **South by :** Open Space.	14.03.2025 12.00 PM to 12.30 PM ---------- Physical Possession	Rs.37,00,000/- [Rupees Thirty Seven Lakhs Only] ---------- Rs.3,70,000/- [Rupees Three Lakh Seventy Thousand Only]
13	Smt. Mamatha Santhoshima A G (Borrower)	Loan A/c No. (1) 653831034 : Rs.26,45,761/- (2) 656938647 : Rs.30,002/- Total Amount Rs.26,75,763/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Three Only) as on 29.02.2024	**Schedule A:** All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted immovable property bearing **Survey No. 120/3,** of surdenupura village, Hesargatta Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk Measuring 8. Guntas Vide Conversion Endorsement No.ALN: (N.A.H)SR/9/2010-11 dated 30-07-2010 more fully described in the Schedule- A. Hereunder and hereinafter referred as Schedule-A Property having purchased by the developer under a registered sale deed registered in the Sub-Registrar Office, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore has got building plan sanctioned from BIAPPA Vide TP-03CC-177/2011-12 dated 23/11/2011 for construction of residential Apartment in an area of 8784 Sqft in Schedule-A Property. and bounded on: **East by :** Munithimma's Land, **West by :** Channappa`s Land, **North by :** Remaining Owners Land, **South by :** Road. **Schedule B: East by :** Open Space, **West by :** Unit-1 (Flat No.F-001), **North by:** Open Space, **South by :** Unit-3 (Flat No.F-003), **391.00 Sqft** undivided share, right and title and interest in the Schedule A Property, with One Residential Apartment / Flat bearing **No. F-002** (1 BHK) **First Floor** with super built-up area approx. of **729.50 Sq ft with car parking area.**	14.03.2025 12.00 PM to 12.30 PM ---------- Physical Possession	Rs.28,05,000/- [Rupees Twenty Eight Lakhs Five Thousand Only] ---------- Rs.2,80,500/- [Rupees Two Lakhs Eighty Thousand Five Hundred Only]
14	Ms. Bindushree R (Borrower)	Loan A/c No: 661622628 Rs.38,48,814/- (Rupees Thirty Eight Lakh Forty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred and Fourteen Only) as on 31.03.2024	**Schedule A:** All the piece and parcel of the Property bearing **Sy Nos. 30, 31 & 32, measuring 13 Acre 01 Guntas,** situated at Adigarakallahalli Village, Sarjapur Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban, within the revenue jurisdiction of BMRDA, Bangalore, in the Project called as 'La-Ville Township', and bounded on, **North by :** Survey No 28 and 29, **South by :** Survey No 47, **East by :** Survey No 142 and 145, **West by :** Survey No 177. **Schedule B:** All the piece and parcel of Residential **Plot bearing No.53,** having E Khatha No. 150200102700422486, No.248/53 being residential plot measuring East to West 12.132 mts North to South 9.080 mts, in all measuring 110.16 Sq. Mtrs in the Schedule 'A' Property situated at Adigarakallahalli Village, Sarjapur Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban and bounded on : **East by :** Park, **West by:** Road, **North by :** Site No.54, **South by :** Site No. 52.	14.03.2025 12.00 PM to 12.30 PM ---------- Physical Possession	Rs.49,40,000/- [Rupees Forty Nine Lakhs Forty Thousand Only] ---------- Rs.4,94,000/- [Rupees Four Lakhs Ninety Four Thousand Only]
15	Mr. Swaroop Kumar Chandrashekarachar (Borrower)	Loan A/c Nos: (1) 681169969 Rs.20,16,916/- (2) 681681367 Rs. 74,669/- Total Amount Rs. 20,91,585/- (Rupees Twenty Lakhs Ninety One Thousand Five Hundred and Eighty Five Only) as on 31.05.2024	**Schedule A:** All that piece & parcel of the Converted land bearing **Sy.No. 128/4,** measuring 31 Guntas out of 01 Acre (+) 07 Guntas "A" Kharab, totally measuring **38 Guntas,** situated at Chikkanahalli Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru (This property has been converted for non-agricultural residential purpose (13 Guntas (+) 07 Guntas A Kharab for Residential, 13 Guntas for Road and 05 Guntas for Park purpose) vide Conversion Order dated:30.10.2017, bearing No.A.L.N(S.T-1)SR:02/17-18, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru District, Bengaluru) and bounded on the: **East by** : Land in Sy.Nos.113, 114 & Road, **West by :** Land in Sy.No.39, **North by :** Land in Sy.No.128/3, **South by :** Land in Sy.No.39 & remaining Portion of the same Sy.No.128/4. **Schedule B:** All that piece and parcel of Residential **Site bearing No.320,** V. P. Katha No.12/320 & E-Katha No.150200302403320853, measuring East to West:18.29 meter and North to South:9.14 meter, totally measuring **167.17 square meter,** in the Layout known as **"KNS NESTER"** formed as per the Layout Plan sanctioned by the Magadi Planning Authority vide No.MPA/LAO/07/2017-18, dated:12.05.2021, formed in Sy.No.128/4 (Schedule "A" Property), situated at Chikkanahalli Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru and bounded on: **East by :** Site No.283, **West by** : Road, **North by** : Site No.319, **South by** : Site Nos.321 & 322.And any construction thereon present and future.	14.03.2025 12.00 PM to 12.30 PM ---------- Physical Possession	Rs.25,00,000/- [Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Only ---------- Rs.2,50,000/- [Rupees Two Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only]

1. Inspection Date & Time: 21.02.2025 and 28.02.2025 between 11.AM TO 4.PM.
2. Minimum bid increment amount: Rs. 35,000/-
3. EMD Amount Submission on or before : 12.03.2025 (Before 5.00 PM)

*together with further interest cost, expenses, and charges as applicable, incurred up to the date of payment and / or realisation thereof.

For any assistance related to inspection of the property, or for obtaining the Bid document and for any other queries, please get in touch with Mr.Yogesh.N / Shridhar Chinni official of HDFC Bank Limited through Tel No.080-41182283, 080-41182126 / 9449080072 / 7795853045

To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd, there are no encumbrances in respect of the above immovable properties / Secured Assets.

Date: 03.02.2025
Place: Bangalore

For HDFC Bank Ltd.
Sd/- Authorized Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd. under SARFAESI Act, 2002

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इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD — FGMO BENGALURU

4th floor, East Wing 26/27, Raheja Towers, M.G.Road, Bengaluru-560001

ENGAGEMENT OF THE SERVICES OF PART-TIME MEDICAL CONSULTANT

Indian Bank invites application for empanelment of Authorized Doctor (on contract basis) at its Field General Manager Office, Bengaluru located at M.G.Road, Bengaluru. Last Date of application: **20.02.2025**

Complete Details and procedure for applying are available in Careers Section of Bank's Website: **www.indianbank.in**

Sl. No	Post	Position	Minimum Post Qualification Experience	Minimum Qualification
1.	Authorized Doctor	01	10 Years	MBBS from University / Board Recognized by Govt. of India

Date: 03.02.2025, Place: Bengaluru — Field General Manager, Bengaluru

Government of Odisha
Information & Public Relations Department
Loka Sampark Bhawan, Bhubaneswar
Corrigendum Notice

File No. PT2-IPR-PM-MISC-0006-2022 1878 / I&PR, BBSR, dated : 02.02.2025

Z: The last date for submission of Tender bid and date of opening of the proposals received in pursuance of RFP N0-885 Dt-16/01/2025 of I&PR Department, as published on Dt.-17/01/2025 in The Samaj, The Sambad, The Prameya, The Times of India, The Hindustan Times (New Delhi Edition) and The New Indian Express (All Edition) is deferred to **10-02-2025 at 5:00 P.M** and **dt.11-02-2025 at 11.30 A.M.** respectively on account of unavoidable circumstances.

OIPR- 15001/11/0413/2425 — **Sd/- Director, I&PR**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU (DRT -2),
4th Floor, Telephone House Building Rajbhavan Road Bangalore - 560001

Form No. 14 (See Regulation 33(2))
DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts Due To Banks and Financial Instituions Act, 1993 and Rule 2 of Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961.

RC 59/2024 in OA 583/ 2022

CANARA BANK Vs SRI MUNIJOGAPPA M & OTHERS

To:(CH 1) **Canara Bank,** Vijayapura, Near BusStand, No. 2967 & 2968, Vijayapura Town, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District - 562 135 Karnataka. **.... Certificate Holders**

Vs

(CD 1) Sri Munijogappa S/o. Late Maddurappa, R/at Pura Village, Vijayanagar Post, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District - 562 102, Karnataka.
(CD 2) Sri Muniraju S/o. Munijogappa, R/at Pura Village, Vijayanagar Post, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District - 562 102, Karnataka.
(CD 3) Sri Narasimha Murthy S/o. Sri Munijogappa, R/at Pura Village, Vijayanagar Post, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District - 562 102, Karnataka.
(CD 4) Sri Manjunath S/o. Munijogappa, R/at Pura Village, Vijayanagar Post, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District - 562 102, Karnataka. **... Certificate Debtors**

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU (DRT 2) in **OA/583/2022** an amount of **Rs.21,22,050.29** (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Fifty and Twenty Nine Paise Only) along with pendentellite and future interest payable as per RC w.e.f. 27.04.2022 till realization and cost of Rs.24005/- (Rupees Twenty Four Thousands Five Only) has become due against you jointly and severally, plus penal interest @ 2% p.a. is also payable/ applicable stated in RC. 2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rules there under.3.You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing. **4.**You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, for further proceedings. **5.** In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will be liable to pay:(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/ execution proceedings. (b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processess and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **20.03.2024**

Sd/-Recover Officer
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore, (DRT 2)

Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below: **"Rule 16** (1) Where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debt Recovery Officer, nor shall any Civil Court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. (2) Where an attachment has been made under this Schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".(3) You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to this Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 years.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: SEE/TR(M)/RMGC/EE(O)/AEE-2/F-35/24-25/4375-76 — Dtd: 31.01.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites bids against the following works:

I. Combined Package for the following works: **(Excluding GST)**

Work-1: Erection of 11kv switchgear & capacitor bank at 66/11kV MUSS Akkurmole in the Augmentation of 1X12.5MVA by 1X20MVA Power Transformer on **Partial Turnkey Basis** as per UNI SR 23-24(CALL-2)

Work-2: Conversion of 2 Nos of deteriorated PCVCB AREVA make switchgears to MEI make MCVCB switchgears at 66/11kV MUSS Akkurmole on **Partial Turnkey Basis** as per UNI SR 23-24

Work-3: Upgradation of 66kV Coyote ACSR bus by 66kV Drake Bus with suitable hardware's at 66/11kV Sub station Akkurmole in T.K.Halli Division on **Partial Turnkey Basis** as per UNI SR 23-24.

II.Combined Package for the following works (CALL-3) **(Excluding GST)**

Work-1: Providing intermediate tower between T.Nos : 06-09 in existing 66KV Jalamangala- Melehalli SC line on DC towers due to water logged at tower no.08 near Thimmasandra village, Ramanagara Town using 66kV Narrow based tower with Coyote ACSR conductor in TL&SS Division Kanakapura on **Total Turn Key Basis.**

Work-2: Providing intermediate tower to increase the vertical clearance for existing 66kV Kanakapura-Chikenahalli-Channapatna SC line (proposed 220/66KV MCMV line to Kothipura) between T.Nos: 43-44 near Hunasemarradoddi village using 220kV Narrow based tower with COYOTE ACSR conductor (Modified Design of 220kV DC Tower of VTP) in TL&SS Division Kanakapura on **Partial Turn Key Basis** (Tower will be supplied by KPTCL).

Work-3: Providing intermediate tower to increase the vertical clearance of existing 66kV Kothipura-Ramanagara SC line (proposed 220/66KV MCMV line to Kothipura) between T.Nos:09-10 at Ramanagara Town using 66kV KPTCL designed Narrow based tower with COYOTE ACSR conductor in TL&SS Division Kanakapura on **Total Turn Key Basis.**

Work-4: Providing intermediate tower to increase the vertical clearance of existing 66kV Maralwadi LILO line between T.Nos: 08 & 09 near Hucchegowdanadoddi using 66kV KPTCL designed Narrow based tower with DRAKE ACSR conductor in TL&SS Division Kanakapura on **Total Turn Key Basis.**

The Detailed Notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging **on or after 05.02.2025** to **www.kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyper Link 'E Procurement KPTCL' or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele), Transmission (M)
Ramanagara Circle, Opp. R.R. Nagar Metro Station, Pantharapalya, Mysuru Road, Bengaluru-560026

एनएमडीसी NMDC Limited

(A Govt. of India Enterprise)
'Khanji Bhavan', 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500028. CIN : L13100TG1958GOI001674
Email : kvprakash@nmdc.co.in, jvenkatesan@nmdc.co.in

OPEN TENDER NOTICE (E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)

E-tenders are invited for following items from reputed manufacturers directly or through their dealers /accredited agents through MSTC portal website **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/nmdc/buyer_login.jsp.**

Tender No.NMDC/HO/MM/PURCH/PP/2024/3 dtd.01.02.2025
(MSTC Ref no: NMDC/Head Office/Material Management/1/2024-25/ET/720)

Description	Qty (No.)	Pre Bid Meeting (VC Mode)	Display & Sale of Tender Documents Period	Last date & time for submission of offer
Supply and E & C of 01 No. Front End Loader, derated bucket capacity of 4.2 to 4.5 Cu.M along with 6 Yrs/ 12000 Hrs COST CAP, whichever is earlier.	01	11.02.2025 at 11:30 AM (IST)	FINAL 25.02.2025 to 19.03.2025	19.03.2025 By 02:30 PM (IST)

Prospective bidders may visit our websites: **www.nmdc.co.in;** CPP Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in; https://mstcecommerce.com** and may download the tender documents. Any corrigendum to the above tender notice will be uploaded on our website and MSTC e -portal only.

GM (Materials)

CUB — CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail id :** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Ph :** 0435-2432322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.5,75,43,783/- (Rupees Five Crore Seventy Five Lakh Forty Three Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty Three only)** as on **27-01-2025** together with further interest to be charged from **28-01-2025** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) M/s. New Janatha Saw Mill, No.1340, B.M. Road, Rai Channapatna - 562 160. No.2) Mr. Syed Shakil Ahmed, S/o. Mr. Syed Ahmed Pasha, No.1287/23, Yadgar Mohalla, Ward No.29, B Division, Channapatna - 562 160. No.3) Mrs. Afrin Nikkath, W/o. Mr. Syed Shakil Ahmed, No.1287/23, Yadgar Mohalla, Ward No.29, B Division, Channapatna - 562 160. No.4) M/s. Janatha Timber Traders, No.108/104, Karemegala Doddi, Channapatna (Tk.), Ramnagara (Dist.) - 562 160. No.5) Mr. Syed Shafiq Ahmed, S/o. Mr. Syed Ahmed Pasha, No.1287/23, Yadgar Mohalla, Ward No.29, B Division, Channapatna - 562 160. No.6) M/s. G.A. Construction, No.1520-C, MBC Complex, Nizam Chowk, Channapatna - 562 160. No.7) Mr. Saheb Miyan, S/o. Mr. Mahaboob Miyan, No.1023, M.G.Road, Kulumbudi, PWD Circle, Channapatna - 562 160. No.8) Mrs. Rohina Banu, W/o. Mr. Saheb Miyan, No.1023, M.G. Road, Kulumbudi, PWD Circle, Channapatna - 562 160. No.9) Mrs. Wajeeha Banu, W/o. Mr. Mahaboob Miyan, No.1023, Uppar Daira, Near Jamiya Masjid, M.G. Road, Ram Nagare - 562 160.**

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank
Schedule - B: (Property Owned by Mr. Syed Shafiq Ahmed, S/o Mr. Syed Ahmed Pasha)

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Sy.No.56/2, measuring 0.06 Guntas situated at Tattekere Village, Kasaba Hobli, Channapatne Taluk, Ramnagara. Bounded on: East by - Road, West by - Sy.No.61/2, North by - Private Property, South by - Magadum Sa Property.

Schedule - C: (Property Owned by Mr. Syed Shafiq Ahmed, S/o. Mr. Syed Ahmed Pasha)

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Sy.No.61/2, measuring 0.22 Guntas situated at Tattekere Village, Kasaba Hobli, Channapatna Taluk. Bounded on: East by - Road, West by - RT Narayanaswamy Property, North by - Private Property, South by - Magadum Sa Property.

Reserve Price: Rs.1,40,00,000/-
(Rupees One Crore Forty Lakh only) (For Schedule - B & C)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
21-02-2025	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru - Ramanagara Branch, B.M. Road, 316 I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural - 571 511. Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale:

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch, B.M. Road, 316 I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural - 571 511. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195. (5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 01-02-2025 — **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.**0435-2402322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746, **Website:** www.cityunionbank.com

IN THE COURT OF 74th ADDL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, BANGALORE
P & S.C No. 25012 /2025. (CCH No: 75)

BETWEEN: Mrs. K.Jayanthi, Aged 63 years, w/o. V.Krishnan, 2001, Shobha Pelladian, Yemalur Signal, HAL Airport Road, Bengaluru-560037 ... **PETITIONER.**

AND: NIL... RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the petitioner above named has made an application under Sec.276 of the Indian Succession Act for grant of Probate in respect of the immovable property of the deceased Mrs.K.Suseela, who was a permanent resident of Apartment No.102, Municipal No.113, Ground Floor, A-1 Block, Rifco Apartments, Konena Agrahara, HAL Sanitary Board, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore-560 017 (more fully described in the Schedule B hereunder) claiming that she is the sole beneficiary under the will executed by the Testatrix, late Mrs.K.Suseela, on the 21st Day of April, 2011. The said Mrs. K Suseela passed away on 21-07-2017. BE it known that the said petition is posted for hearing on **15-02-2025** at 11:00 A.M before the 74th Additional City Civil Judge, Mayo Hall, Bengaluru CCH 75 and any person claiming to have any interest in the matter of the immovable property left behind by the deceased Testatrix may enter appearance and participate in the proceedings to assert his or her claim over the said immovable B Schedule property of the deceased, before the grant of the Probate to the Petitioner

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

A that piece and parcel of property presently bearing H.A.L Sanitary Board, Katha No.73/23/1 A to L situated at Konena Agrahara, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore admeasuring approximately an extent of 51,246 sq. feet within the jurisdiction of H.A.L Sanitary Board, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, together with all appurtenances and structures standing thereon and bounded on the: East By: Road and private property; West by: Vishveswaraiah School Play ground; North by : Approach Road from the main Airport Road And Private Property &, South by: Road.

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

APARTMENT BEARING No. 102 on the ground floor in the A-1 Block of the multi storied residential apartments complex to be known as RIFCO-ARUNA APARTMENTS and to be constructed on the SCHEDULE A PROPERTY to be having two bedrooms, living cum dining hall, kitchen, 2 toilets, balcony together measuring 692 sq. feet inclusive of proportionate area of common facilities like staircases, corridors, etc., the apartment has also its inner measurements indicated in the floor plan hereto annexed to form a part and parcel of this deed. The said apartment to be having 75/10000 undivided share together with one car park bearing No.07 in the basement of B-1 Block having 3/10000 undivided share in Schedule A property.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on 30-01-2025.

By order of the court, Deputy Registrar, City civil Court Mayo hall Unit, Bangalore.

S. SATHYARTHY, Advocate
No. 156, S.T. Bed, II Main, Koramangala, 4th Block, Bengaluru-560038.

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THE MYSORE SUGAR COMPANY LIMITED

(A Govt.of Karnataka Undertaking)
Sugar Town, Mandya-571 402.
MSCo/MM/63/2024-25 DATE: 01-02-2025

SHORT TERM e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Mysore Sugar Company Ltd., Mandya is invited Tender through e-procurement portal Tenders from the interested manufacturers/dealers/suppliers/ Contractors for supply of the following product:

Sl.No : 01. Description of Material : Supply of Loose Bagasse / wood chips. Quantity : 2000 MT . EMD of Rs. : Rs.50,000-00

Tenders can be downloading from 03-02-2025 to 10-02-2025 @4.00 PM. The date of opening of technical tender on 12-02-2025 at General Manager's office Mandya. For further details contact e-procurement web site www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in No. 080-25501216/ 25501227 or 7892467431/9886470666. Managing Director reserves the right to accept or reject the tender without assigning any reason and Managing Director decision in this regard final and binding.

Sd/-CHIEF ADMIN. OFFICER

DIPR/AD-MDY/KSMCA/619/2024-25

V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority

Civil Engineering Department
Tuticorin-628 004.
SAGARMALA

Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)

NIT No: E(C) -56/ 7 / 2025 – EST/ D.249 — Dated: 31.01.2025

V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority Tuticorin is a Major Port under Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. Government of India is one of the best run Ports in the Country with excellent Infrastructure such as Internal roads, Warehouses, Transit sheds, Open storage space, Truck parking facility, Power & Water Supply etc.,

Port is well connected to various cities in Tamil Nadu and the neighbouring states by Rail, four lane National Highways (NH-7A and NH-45B) and Airways.

V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority invites Offers / Bids from the experienced reputed firms for **"Allotment of Port Land Opposite to Tamilnadu Maritime Academy, land nearby Inigo Nagar & land at link road, land near by Marshalling Yard, Hare Island, Truck Parking Terminal 'on as is where is Basis' for various purposes for a period of 30 years lease on Upfront / Annual lease payment basis at V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority"** as follows:-

Downloading of Tender document from website	From 05.02.2025 to 27.02.2025
Last Date & Time of submission of Tender online	27.02.2025 at 15:00 Hrs.
Opening of Technical Bid online Date & Time	27.02.2025 at 15:30 Hrs.

For Further details, Please visit
www.vocport.gov.in and www.tenderwizard.com / VOCPT

CHIEF ENGINEER & ESTATE OFFICER

HDFC BANK — HDFC BANK LIMITED

Regd. Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013
Branch: #51, HDFC House, Kasturba Road, Bangalore 560 001
Tel:-080-41183000 CIN L65920MH1994PLC080618 Website: www.hdfcbank.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Limited** (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) **(HDFC)** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice/s, as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective addresses of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s). Copies of the said Notices are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to pay to **HDFC,** within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below in their respective names, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notices from the respective dates mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realization, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to **HDFC** by the said Borrower (s) respectively.

Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset/s.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative (s)	Total Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Security Interest has been created
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(f)
1	**Mr. Prasad J (Borrower),** P N Industries, **Designation:** Proprietor, # 152/B1, KIADB Industrial Area, Jigani Link Road, 4th Phase, Bommasandra Industrial Estate, Bengaluru 560099. **Also at:** # 50, 2nd Floor, 18th Main, 20th Cross, 3rd Sector, Near HSR Club, HSR Layout SO, Bengaluru-560102. **Also at:** No 152/B, 4th Phase, Bommasandra, Opp SBH, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk,Bengaluru -560099.	**Loan A/c Nos. 1) 619475070 Rs.1,11,08,420/- 2) 619555646 Rs. 72,09,278/- Total Amount: Rs.1,83,17,698/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty Three Lakh Seventeen Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety Eight Only) as on 31.12.2024**	**17.01.2025** .... **N.P.A. Date: (e) 03.11.2024**	**Schedule A:** All that piece and parcel of the **Plot Nos.152-B,** New No.6/152B/76 and Property No.150200103200101497, situated in Bommasandra IV Phase, Industrial Area, situated in Sy. Nos. part of 76 of Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, together with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever underneath or above the surface and bounded on the: **East by :** Plot No.152-A (P), **West by :** Plot No.152-C, **North by :** Road, **South by :** Private Land **Measuring, East Side :** 19.00 Meters, **West Side :** 56.00 Meters, **North Side :** 42.00 Meters, **South Side :** 60.00 Meters, **in all measuring : 1575.00 Square Meters.** Together with **845 Sq. mtrs** of RCC roofed building and ACC sheet roofed building, cement flooring, doors and windows are made of steel, having all civic amenities. **Schedule B:** All that piece and parcel of the Western Portion of **Plot Nos.152-B, New No.6/152B/76** and Property No.150200103200101497, situated in Bommasandra IV Phase, Industrial Area, situated in Sy.Nos. part of 76 of Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, together with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever underneath or above the surface and bounded on the: **East by** : Remaining Portion Of Plot No.152-B Retained By The Vendor, **West by** : Plot No.152-C, **North by** : Road, **South by** : Private Land. **Measuring East Side : 41.30 Meters, West Side** : 56.00 Meters, **North Side** : 18.30 Meters, **South Side** : 21.35 Meters, in all measuring : **890.00 Square Meters or 9560 Square feet,** Together with 4 Squares of RCC roofed building and 48 squarres of ACC sheet roofed building, cement flooring, doors and windows are made of steel, having all civic amenities.
2	**Mr. Guruprasad Hariprasad (Borrower) Mrs. Kolhapuri Nandini (Co-Borrower) Both are residing at:** No 4, Flat No 302, Ground Floor, Sobha Morzaria Grandeur, Bannerghatta Road, Dharmaram College, Bengaluru 560029. **Mr. Guruprasad Hariprasad (Borrower) Cyan Advisory Services Private Limited, Designation:** Director **Mrs. Kolhapuri Nandini (Co-Borrower) Hari Prasad Convergences Private Limited. Designation:** Director **Hari Prasad Convergences Private Limited. All are residing at:** 17/D, 37th Cross, 8th Block Jayanagar, Jayanagar Vii Block, Bengaluru 560082. **And Also:** Flat-C-201, 2nd Floor, Penninsula Heights (South) S No Municipal Nos 46/1,2 47/2 & 8/1-6, J P Nagar, 2nd Phase, Marenahalli, Bengaluru 560078.	**Loan A/c Nos. 1) 674966289 Rs.3,78,67,971/- 2) 677161506 Rs. 55,70,597/- 3) 678525892 Rs. 2,46,277/- Total Amount: Rs.4,36,84,845/- (Rupees Four Crore Thirty Six Lakh Eighty Four Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty Five Only) as on 31.12.2024**	**21.01.2025** .... **N.P.A. Date: (e) 03.01.2025**	**Schedule A :** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal No. **46/1, 46/2, 47/2 and 8/1**, 2nd Phase, J. P. Nagar, Marenahalli, Ward No.57, New Ward No.177, Bengaluru, (PID No. 57-135-46/1,46/2,47/2 & 8/1) (earlier bearing Municipal No. 46/1, 46/2, 47/2 and 8/1, Municipal No.46/1, 46/2, 47/2 and 8/1-1, Municipal No.46/1, 46/2, 47/2 and 8/1-2, a portion of Municipal No.46/1, 46/2, 47/2 and 8/1-3, a portion of Municipal No.46/1, 46/2, 47/2 and 8/1- 4, Municipal No.46/1,46/2, 47/2 and 8/1-5 and Municipal No.46/1, 46/2, 47/2 and 8/1-6, 2nd Phase, J. P. Nagar, Marenahalli, Ward No.57, Bengaluru and still earlier portion of Survey No.46/1, 46/2, 47/2 and 8/1, Marenahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk and later known as No.46/1, 46/2, 47/2 and 8/1 Sarakki I Stage, B.D.A 9th Block, Bengaluru) measuring in all about 1,58,659.80 square feet equivalent to 14739.87 square meters as per the municipal records and 1,58,045.01 square feet i.e (14682.74 square meters) as per actual physical measurement and bounded as under :- **On the East by** : 25th Cross Road (Old existing Road to Bannerghatta), **On the West by** : 17th Main Road (Old proposed Road of CITB) and portion of Municipal No.46/1, 46/2, 47/2 and 8/1-3 and portion of Municipal No. 46/1,46/2,47/2 and 8/1-4; **On the North by** : Property belonging to B.P.R.L; **On the South by** : Private Property (old C.I.T.B land). (**Note:** Extent of Schedule 'A' Property as per title documents and municipal records is about 1,58,659.80 square feet equivalent to 14739.87 square meters and actual extent physically available within the boundaries of the property is about 158,045.01 square feet i.e. 14682.74 square meters.) **Schedule B:** An undivided **0.7756 %** (zero point seven seven five six percent) share in the land comprised out of the Schedule 'A' Property equivalent to 1**230.56 square feet,** corresponding to the Schedule 'C' Private Residence taking into consideration the FAR achieved (including TDR) on the Schedule 'A' Property. (**Note:** As per above note the undivided share of each unit owner in the said Land would be reduced proportionately as per actual are available with the boundaries of Schedule A property). **Schedule C:** A Four Bedroom Private Residence bearing **No. 201** on the 2nd Floor of C Wing of Tower I (described as South Wing- Tower B in the Sanctioned Plan) of the Project known as **"Peninsula Heights"** developed on the Schedule 'A' Property having a Carpet area of **294 square metres** or **3164.61 square feet** and Super Built up Area of **457.07 square metres i.e 4920** square feet which is inclusive of proportionate share in the Common Area and Common Amenities and Facilities along with exclusive right to use One Tandem and Two Single (4 nos.) **car parking space/s in the Basement.** The Schedule 'C Property or Private Residence and the Purchasers'/'s **Car Parking** Spaces is shown in plan Schedule T and \T hereto.

*with further interest cost, expenses, and charges as applicable incurred till the date of payment and / or realization. If the said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) fail to make payment to **HDFC Bank Limited** as aforesaid, then **HDFC Bank Limited** shall proceed against the above Secured Asset / Immovable Property under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.

The said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset / Immovable Property, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of **HDFC Bank Limited**. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 03.02.2025
Place: Bangalore

For HDFC Bank Ltd.
Sd/- Authorized Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd. under SARFAESI Act, 2002

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Client G.V. Murthy also known as Gundu Rao Vasudeva Murthy, son of late Sri N.V. Gundu Rao, residing at No.399, 11th Cross, 17th Main, J.P. Nagar II Phase, Bengaluru – 560 078 has represented that he has irretrievably lost the original Sale Deed dated 14/05/1997 (registered as Document No.1502/1997-98, in Book I, Volume 1728 at Pages 172-179 in the office of the Sub-registrar, Kengeri, Bengaluru) executed by Sri K.S. Sudhakar, son of Sri K.L. Shivalinge Gowda in respect of the Commercial property situated at No.224, PID No.57-206-224, 16th Cross, 23rd Main, J.P. Nagar V Phase, Sarakki, Bengaluru – 560 078,

The finder/s of the documents aforesaid are requested to contact us and hand it over to us. The General Public is hereby notified and cautioned not to deal with the above said property on the basis of the aforesaid document with anyone else other than our Client. Our Client also hereby represents and declares that he has not deposited the aforesaid documents with any financier or other Bank or financial institution/s for the purpose of raising any loan/s whatsoever by way of mortgage of the said properties and said property is free from such claims and/or charges.

M/s. SUNDARASWAMY & RAMDAS
Advocates
No.24, Keshava Nivas, Kalidasa Road, Gandhinagar, Bangalore – 560 009.
Phones: (080) 22263838, 22380809,
Fax: (080) 22251764,
Email: admin@sundaraswamy.com

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अंतरिक्ष विभाग
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निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह
महेंद्रगिरि पी ओ-627 133
दूरभाष : 04637–28-1803 / 1672 | 3582
फैक्स : 04637 – 281681

इसरो isro

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
ISRO PROPULSION COMPLEX
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
MAHENDRAGIRI PO - 627 133
Telephone: 04637–28-1803 / 1672 | 3582
Fax: 04637 – 281681

ई-निविदा सूचना / E-TENDER NOTICE — दिनांक/Dated : 30-01-2025

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु **ई-निविदा** द्वारा मद-दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।
On Behalf of the President of India, item-rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following works:

क्र. सं. Sl. No.	कार्यों के नाम Name of Works	प्राक्कलित लागत Estimated Cost ₹(लाखों में) (in Lakhs)	कार्य पूरा होने की अवधि Period of completion	ईएमडी EMD(₹)
1	एनआईटी सं:आईपीआरसी/ सीएमजी/ टीडी/ ई-154/ एमआई/ सीपीएच-83/2024-25	NIT no:IPRC/CMG/TD/e-154/MI/CPH-83/2024-25		
	आईपीआरसी, महेंद्रगिरि स्थित अंतरिक्ष संग्रहालय जानेवाले मार्ग पर शेड लगाना। **Providing shed for covering pathway for Space Museum at IPRC Mahendragiri.**	24.72	05 (पाँच महीने / Five months)	49,500
2	एनआईटी सं:आईपीआरसी/ सीएमजी/ टीडी/ ई-155/ एमआई/ सीपीएच-84/2024-25	NIT no:IPRC/CMG/TD/e-155/MI/CPH-84/2024-25		
	आईपीआरसी, महेंद्रगिरि के एमईटी सुविधा के लिए कैमरा कियोस्क-3 का निर्माण। **Construction of Camera Kiosk-3 for MET facility at IPRC, Mahendragiri.**	15.79	05 (पाँच महीने / Five months)	31,600
3	एनआईटी सं:आईपीआरसी/ सीएमजी/ टीडी/ ई-156/ एमआई/ सीपीएच-85/2024-25	NIT no:IPRC/CMG/TD/e-156/MI/CPH-85/2024-25		
	आईपीआरसी, महेंद्रगिरि में कर्मचारियों के लिए पीईटी नियंत्रण कक्ष और परीक्षित इंजन भंडार कक्ष का विस्तार। **Extension to PET Control Room for Staff and Tested Engine Store room at IPRC, Mahendragiri.**	21.41	06 (छह महीने / Six months)	42,900
4	एनआईटी सं:आईपीआरसी/ सीएमजी/ टीडी/ ई-157/ एमआई/ सीपीएच-86/2024-25	NIT no:IPRC/CMG/TD/e-157/MI/CPH-86/2024-25		
	आईपीआरसी, महेंद्रगिरि में आईएसपी वी से आईएसपी आईतक अतिरिक्त पंपिंग मेन प्रदान करना। **Providing additional pumping main from ISP V to ISP I at IPRC, Mahendragiri.**	22.23	04 (चार महीने / Four months)	44,500

ऑनलाइन निवेदन करने की तिथि: **Dates for Online Request : From 03-02-2025[10:00 hours/ बजे] से To: 17-02-2025[23:30 hours/ बजे] तक।**

नियत समय व प्रस्तुतीकरण की तिथि: Due Date & Time of Submission : **25-02-2025 [14:00 hours/बजे] तक।**

अधिक जानकारी के लिए देखें : For further details visit: **www.isro.gov.in/tenders (या/or) www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.**

नोट : उपर्युक्त कार्य (कार्यों) के लिए भविष्य में सभी पत्राचार (शुद्धिपत्र) केवल उपर्युक्त वेबसाइट पर ही प्रकाशित किए जाएंगे।
Note : All future correspondence (Corrigenda) for the above work(s) shall be published only on the websites mentioned above.

समूह निदेशक, सीएमजी, आईपीआरसी / GROUP DIRECTOR, CMG, IPRC

EDITORIAL

"Economic growth without investment in human development is unsustainable—and unethical" — Amartya Sen

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

BIG TAX-CUT STIMULUS, PRUDENT REFORMS CAN SPUR NEW-AGE GROWTH

A day before the Budget, the Prime Minister had flashed a tantalising trailer of the coming bounty by saying he had prayed for Goddess Lakshmi to bless the middle class. When Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman finally unwrapped the gift box at the very end of her budget speech, it fully justified the mounting excitement among the likely beneficiaries. As many as one crore taxpayers have been released from India's income tax net, with exemption limits yanked up from those earning ₹7 lakh a year to cover everyone with annual incomes of up to ₹12.75 lakh—a full one-third of the current base. The government had sensed it had to put more money in middle-class pockets if flagging consumption had to be cranked up. One clear stimulus to growth lay right there in firing up demand down the line, persuading industry to crank up production, with all the expected cascading effects. The government has foregone ₹1 lakh crore to enable this, a substantial 8.65 percent of its income tax revenues. Just like ordinary salaried people have been left with more to spend, businesses, too, will have more money as bank credit flow to micro and small units and start-ups has been effectively doubled. It's a good gambit, and the government is hoping the economy will speed up from the current gait of 6.2-6.5 percent GDP growth, more an amble than a gallop.

India's middle class deserves this break, after many seasons of tough living. Hard-nosed economists, though, are concerned that the amount of money which should have been available for capital expenditure may slide backwards. On the other hand, it is a qualified positive that the Budget has gone on the front foot to develop nuclear power as an alternative, faster route to becoming a 'green energy' nation. Qualified, of course, with safety and public health affixed as absolute imperatives. The launch of the Nuclear Energy Mission, with a ₹20,000-crore commitment, hopes to raise nuclear power generation from a meagre 8 GW to 100 GW by 2047. Walking down the same path, the Budget has exempted a slew of critical minerals and electric vehicle parts from customs duty to make EVs cheaper and more popular.

The palette was also shaded with some tones of disappointment. Some came from the capital markets: initially rising briskly in anticipation of bold measures, they slid into the red at the absence of direct spurs, and finally ended flat. A larger realism perhaps underlays this. Gathering apace is a sense that a fuller reckoning was warranted of the backdrop of global headwinds, what with the protectionist storm unleashed by the new Trump administration. The Economic Survey has warned of the GDP graph hugging the 6.3-6.5 percent plateau. The challenge posed by China, which seems rather more nimbly adjusted to the demands of the day, should goad India into deeper reforms. We are not going to catch up with education, health and nutrition lagging—the collective outlay for the social sector has thinned to 23 percent, a 4 percent drop from the previous year.

KERALA NEEDS LIBERAL, SENSIBLE EXCISE POLICY IN TUNE WITH THE TIMES

A controversy is brewing in Kerala around a brewery unit proposed to come up in Palakkad district. It began with the Kerala government giving Oasis Commercial Private Limited a nod to establish grain-based distillation and brewery units worth ₹600 crore at Kanchikode in Palakkad. The plan is to build an ethanol plant, multi-feed distillation unit, Indian-made foreign liquor bottling unit, brewery, malt spirit plant, and brandy/winery plant. The project is estimated to involve an investment of ₹600 crore and provide direct employment to 650 people and indirect employment to 2,000 others. As is the case with every new initiative in Kerala, this project—a first of its kind in southern India—has also become a contentious political issue, with the opposition raising red flags against the project.

The major allegation of the UDF is regarding the track record of the particular company. They allege that it has a controversial background and is involved in the Delhi liquor policy case and environmental violations in Punjab. Another allegation—which makes more sense—is that the brewery could exacerbate water scarcity in the region, which is already prone to droughts. It is argued that the project's water consumption could adversely affect local agriculture and the daily water needs of residents. And that, indeed, is a serious concern. The government, on its part, insists that the brewery's water requirements would be met through the Kerala Water Authority and rainwater storage, ensuring that local water needs remain unaffected. The government, in turn, accused the opposition of spreading false information to hinder a project that could potentially boost the state economy.

While the government must address the concerns over environmental impacts and procedural transparency, the opposition must not blindly oppose any new project that promises significant investment and job creation for the sake of opposing. Arguments aside, it is high time that the state—one of the country's top liquor consumers—goes in for a more open and liberal excise policy. It must also consider relaxing excise policy norms regarding dry days and the 11 pm deadline to serve liquor, which is unheard of in most other states. This is particularly important as the state earns a large chunk of revenue from tourism and is increasingly seen as a destination for weddings and Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE). The need of the hour is a sensible policy in tune with the times.

The Budget appears to have ticked all the boxes necessary to be on the path to a Viksit Bharat by 2047. However, a lot will depend on the extent to which various multiplier effects kick in

2025 BUDGET: WILL IT TRIGGER THE RIGHT ANIMAL SPIRITS?

DEBOPAM CHAUDHURI
Chief economist, Piramal Enterprises

SOURAV ROY

WITH Saturday's announcements in the Union Budget for the financial year 2025-26, fiscal policy has scored higher in the resolve to resurrect India's sagging growth, while monetary policy still languishes with its band-aid solutions to plug short-term liquidity deficits.

After the finance ministry's bold measures, even at the cost of fanning some retail inflation, it is now expected that the Reserve Bank of India will finally start cutting rates, something they should have done at least six months ago.

Combined expansionary fiscal and monetary policies have a good chance to free India from its present growth malaise and gradually reach the desired 8 percent rate required for attaining the aim of Viksit Bharat by 2047 (Economic Survey 2024-25). With a growth rate of 6.4 percent in FY25 and 6.8 percent (optimistic) in FY26, India is slated to lose out on ₹8 lakh crore of national income (considering it had to grow at 8 percent). It will take a lot more than good intent and political will to earn this back while maintaining an average 8 percent growth over the next few years.

The Budget appears to have ticked all the boxes necessary to attain this. However, unlike physical sciences, economics is a subjective and behavioural field. There are no predefined formulas like E equals MC squared that will always hold true come what may. A lot will depend on the extent to which various multiplier effects kick in, given the choices made for allocating expenses in the Budget.

For example, income tax exemption up to an income of ₹12 lakh will immediately benefit approximately two crore taxpayers earning between ₹7 lakh and ₹12 lakh per annum (since those earning under ₹7 lakh were already exempted), and the revised income slabs will benefit an additional 70-80 lakh high earners. To what extent higher spending from these 2.1 crore taxpayers will trickle down and help the larger population of aspiring Indians needs to be seen.

Additionally, in a year when GDP is not expected to grow beyond 6.8 percent, the decision to keep allocations to MNREGA the same as the last two years despite rising inflation could have a limiting impact on intended job creation. Similarly, there has been a sharp decline in the allocation to Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban, likely due to a fall in what was spent in FY25 versus what was announced in the FY25 budget.

Also, some balance funds may have been utilised in the new Urban Challenge Fund. Whether it is prudent to reallocate urban development funds when income tax rebates could awaken a demand momentum among the urban middle class to buy homes needs to be seen. Any policy or finance-led bottleneck will be unwarranted when the government is spending ₹1 lakh crore (tax income foregone due to income tax rebates) to painstakingly revive consumer demand.

Finally, there have been a lot of encouraging comments made in the Economic Survey as well as in the Budget regarding deregulation and ease of doing business. Globally, bankers have been demanding rationalisation in regulations to reduce compliance costs. While it is necessary to have robust rules, especially in the financial sector, it is equally important to maintain a balance between conservatism and growth. Indian regulators should take a leaf out of the intentions expressed by Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and promote an environment of light regulation backed by mutual trust.

Moving on to what the Budget could have also included. Considering Indian economic growth is still not out of the woods, a more aggressive stance on public capex could have been a good impetus. The FY26 Budget has raised capex by 10 percent to ₹11.2 lakh crore after falling short of spending more than ₹90,000 crore from last year's capex Budget.

Every rupee spent in public capex contributes to at least ₹3 in GDP. Hence, I would have expected the capex to be at least ₹2.5 lakh crore more than last year's.

Similarly, as mentioned above, MNREGA funds should have been higher by at least 10 percent, and an added focus on urban-NREGA could have been beneficial. Post-Covid, after the heavy migrant outflow from cities, we have yet to see a 100 percent reversal. RBI KLEMS data suggest a rise in agricultural employment post-Covid. These indicate India's rural-urban migratory trend has taken a back seat, impacting productivity. Focussed announcements for urban-NREGA could have helped restore this.

Finally, despite significant liquidity shortages in the economy, forcing non-bank lenders to borrow expensive capital abroad, the Budget did not specify any financial reforms like setting up a National Housing Board-like institution for non-banking financial companies or easing external commercial borrowing norms. While some of these are in the jurisdiction of the RBI, mere references by the finance minister could have set the wheels in motion.

To conclude, I see this is a good budget overall, meeting the expectations of various economic stakeholders ranging from small farmers and urban consumers to investors and industrialists. However, some additional revenue expenditure might have helped in a year when the economy is not expected to bounce back.

I am hopeful about the income tax reforms, foreign direct investments in insurance and overarching views on deregulation. These are expected to complement the government's efforts to revitalise the economy in FY26.

Additionally, sound fiscal management will give India a leg up in its debt and money market, which will see a crowding-in of more private sector borrowers accessing funds at a lower rate.

(Views are personal)

THE TACTILE APPEAL OF CHOLA BRONZE

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

I am looking forward to an illustrated talk in Delhi on February 6 by scholar Dr Vidya Dehejia on Chola bronzes in their social and material context. This is part of an ongoing series of talks at the India International Centre on Indian monuments. It is curated by eminent historian Dr Himanshu Prabha Ray, former director of the National Mission for Monuments. I was privileged to deliver a talk in this series on 'Kamakshi in Kanchipuram' last November. Let me wickedly add that it's refreshing that South India gets to be presented in Delhi.

This talk on Chola bronzes evokes several sentiments that are part and parcel of Indian identity, particularly Tamil identity. The talk is titled 'The Thief Who Stole My Heart'. This is the title of Dr Dehejia's book from 2021, *The Thief Who Stole My Heart—The Material Life of Sacred Bronzes from Chola India, 855–1280.*

It is described as "the first book to situate the sacred and sensuous bronze statues from India's Chola dynasty in a social context. From the 9th through 13th centuries, the Chola dynasty produced thousands of statues of Hindu deities, whose physical perfection was meant to reflect spiritual beauty and divine transcendence. During festivals, these bronze sculptures—including Shiva, referred to in a saintly vision as 'the thief who stole my heart'—were adorned with jewels and flowers and paraded through towns as active participants in Chola worship.

"Dehejia presents the bronzes as material objects that interacted in meaningful ways with the people and practices of their era. Describing the role of the statues in everyday activities, she reveals not only the importance of the bronzes for the empire but also little-known facets of Chola life. She considers the source of copper and jewels used for the deities, proposing that the need for such resources may have influenced the empire's political engagement with Sri Lanka. She also investigates the role of women patrons in bronze commissions and discusses the vast public records—many appearing here in translation for the first time—inscribed on temple walls.

"From the Cholas' religious customs to their agriculture, politics, and even food, the book offers an expansive immersion in a community still accessible to us through its exquisite sacred art."

The memories of this subject are unmissable for those connected with the Shaiva Siddhanta tradition of Tamil Nadu. Let us take the words' the thief who stole my heart'. This is a translation of '*Yenn ullam kavar kalvan*". This is from a 7th-century verse by the boy-saint Thirugnana Sambandar, which begins "*Thodudaya cheviyan*", describing his beautiful vision of Shiva. It is the first verse of the *Thirumurai* or Tamil 'Shaiva Bible' as it is sometimes called. Here, I would like to share why this verse is so deeply ingrained and personally precious.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

From the 9th through 13th centuries, the Chola dynasty produced thousands of statues of Hindu deities, whose physical perfection was meant to reflect spiritual beauty and divine transcendence. During festivals, these were adorned with jewels and flowers and paraded through towns

It is the first thing I was ever taught at age four. Not '*Jack and Jill*' or '*Humpty Dumpty*'. My father, too, was taught this verse as his first learning, also at age four, and his father before him, going back many generations over hundreds of years.

I earnestly suggest that young parents teach their little ones this or some other verse in their mother tongue about whichever deity is close to their heart or their *kula deivam*, their family deity. If these options are unavailable, a simple prayer to Ganesha would be the ideal 'default setting'. I think those who belong to other religions are pretty particular about doing this, but perhaps not Hindus, always? Especially those who may be overly deracinated or, sadly, hostile to their own culture?

I recommend this because it forges a wonderful link with heritage, tradition and identity. It becomes a bedrock on which your feet are firmly planted no matter how far away you go or what ideas you may explore. It has undoubtedly 'worked' in my case, so I can confidently attest to its power.

Strangely, and nobody at home can explain why, my younger brother and sister were not taught this verse like I was. And they are disconnected from their Tamil identity. My brother is a North Indian, which is no bad thing, who describes himself as "an adoptive son of Western Uttar Pradesh". My sister is wholly American. She convulsed my father once by asking him to "pray to South Indian deities like Venkateshwara" on her behalf for something important to her.

Whereas, by the grace of God, South India sings in me, and I am deeply grateful for the emotional foundation thus granted. I remember Avvaiyaar's first poignant verse about trusting God for survival that ends, "*Nenjame anjaade nee*", meaning, "O heart, do not fear'. It became a personal anthem when facing, as anyone must, "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune". Many people have such talismans, and these verses by Sambandar and Avvaiyaar happen to be mine.

If you have missed doing so, I suggest a visit to the Chola bronze gallery at the Madras Government Museum to feast your eyes on the buttery, tactile appeal of bronze. Also, if your interest allows, explore Chola Nadu: Pazhaiyaarai, Thanjavur, Gangaikonda Cholapuram, Darasuram, and Chidambaram, described as '*Bhuloka Kailayagiri Chidambaram*', meaning 'Chidambaram is Mount Kailash on earth'. Even before treating yourself to these sights, Dr Dehejia's book may steal your heart.

(Views are personal)

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MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Structural issues

Ref: *Budget goes big, growth hinges on hope* (Feb 2). Faced with a difficult economic environment and political pressures, the FY26 Budget attempts to find a middle ground. However, despite some new proposals, its effectiveness is undermined by a lack of long-term planning, an inconsistent strategy, and a neglect of underlying structural issues affecting vital sectors.

NR Jagannath, Bengaluru

Economic tightrope

Ref: *Neither halwa nor a biryani* (Feb 2). In recent memory, the 1991 fiscal initiative is the only coercive measure to counter the worse and coarse. Due to the Trump era and changing geopolitical scenario, economic policy may have to walk a tightrope balancing export policy and defence outlay.

Sachidananda Satpathy, Sambalpur

Higher inflation

The Union Budget has sparked a mixed reaction among citizens, experts, and stakeholders. It has introduced several initiatives that will benefit the common man. However, there are also some negative aspects. The increase in taxes on certain goods and services may lead to higher prices and inflation.

Lawrence Vadukut, Thrissur

Right step

The Budget seems to embody Chanakya's wisdom, prioritising fiscal prudence and growth-oriented policies. However, it's essential to ensure these measures benefit all sections of society, particularly the middle class. Broadening the tax base and bringing in new taxpayers is a step in the right direction.

Raju Kolluru, Kakinada

Census delayed

The unexpected sops by the Centre to the taxable population would undoubtedly be welcomed by all coming in the tax bracket. But how these reliefs would help contain inflation remains a concern. However, it is disheartening that the census, through which data for many decision-making processes would have been available, has not yet materialised.

Jiji Panicker K, Chengannur

Hypocritical Trump

Ref: *Won't accept Gaza residents: Arab nations* (Feb 2). US President Donald Trump seems to have double standards for immigrants in the US and displaced Palestinians, as he is advising Arab nations to absorb them temporarily or permanently, so that Gaza can be cleaned up. Arab nations, on the other hand, want to establish two nations of Israel and Palestine.

Parthasarathy Mandadi, Tirupati

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Rajnath Singh @RajnathSingh_in
Bharatiya Janata Party is the only party in India which does what it says. Just like the country is moving forward, Delhi will also move forward.

Jairam Ramesh @Jairam_Ramesh
The BJP government, which gives the number of crores of devotees visiting the Maha Kumbh every day, is not revealing the actual number of dead even after five days.

Sanjay Jha @JhaSanjay
The Indian economy suffers from a structural meltdown. The income-tax relief for middle-class, long demanded by the opposition, has been forced on the govt by a sluggish economy.

Middle-class hailing it most favourable budget, says Modi at Delhi rally

ANUP VERMA @ New Delhi

A day before the end of campaigning for the Delhi assembly election, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that the middle-class of India considers the Budget 2025-26 as the "most favourable" one in the country's history.

He said his government has completely eliminated the income tax for individuals earning up to ₹12 lakh. "This change will save middle-class citizens thousands of rupees."

Modi was addressing BJP's 'Delhi Sankalp rally' in South Delhi's RK Puram.

Alleging that the AAP government has "ruined" the city, the PM said, "AAP-da has wasted 11 years of Delhi. I would request every family to allow us to serve you. I guarantee that we will spare no effort to resolving all your problems."

He reiterated the BJP's promise of providing monetary aid to women, saying that by March 8, which is International Women's Day, ₹2,500 will be credited to the bank accounts of Delhi's women.

Modi sharply attacked the AAP dispensation, saying that the straws of the broom were scattering. Since the party leaders have sensed that the people are disillusioned with AAP, they are leaving it.

> **This election, the fight is between Modi's guarantees and AAP's false promises. I am determined to strengthen the four pillars of India to realise the dream of 'Viksit Bharat'**
>
> Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Striking a chord with the people of RK Puram, he said the area is the best example of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat', as people from different states live together there. Many are into government services, strengthening his functioning as the Prime Minister.

He said on February 5, BJP is going to form its government in Delhi. "This election, the fight is between Modi's guarantees and AAP's false promises. I am determined to strengthen the four pillars of India to realise the dream of 'Viksit Bharat'. The four pillars are — farmers, women, youth and poor. Saturday's Budget presented by the Central government is a guarantee to fulfill Modi's guarantees," he said at the rally.

India, Indonesia bound by shared heritage, says PM

Modi virtually attends religious ritual in Jakarta's Murugan temple

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday asserted that the relationship between Indian and Indonesia is not just based on geo-political, it is deeply rooted in thousands of years of culture and history.

He emphasised that the bond between these two countries is based on heritage, science and faith with both countries having a tradition of unity in diversity.

Modi was addressing the Maha Kumbabhishegam of Shri Sanathana Dharma Aalayam in Jakarta, Indonesia, via video conferencing.

"It is my pleasure that I have become a part of the Maha Kumbabhishegam of the Murugan Temple in Jakarta. I am far from Jakarta but my mind is close to it, just like India and Indonesia are close to each other. I extend my wishes to all the people there on the occasion of Maha Kumbabhishegam," Modi said, adding that Indonesia's President Prabowo Subianto had taken the love of 140 crore Indians from India just a few days ago.

He said that through their president, the people of Indonesia must be experiencing the good wishes of every Indian sent from here. "I congratulate all of you and crores of devotees of Lord Murugan in India, Indonesia, and across the world on the occasion of the Maha Kumbabhishegam of Jakarta Temple. I wish that the praise of Lord Murugan continues through the hymns of Tiruppugal. May the mantras of Skanda Shashthi Kavacham protect all people," Modi said.

Describing Indonesia and India relations rooted with culture and faith, PM Modi said, "For the people of India and Indonesia, our relations are not just geopolitical. We are connected by thousands of years of culture. We are connected by thousands of years of history. Our relationship is of heritage, of science, of faith. Our relationship is of shared faith, of spirituality. We are also related to Lord Murugan and Lord Shri Ram. And we are also related to Lord Buddha".

He also highlighted that when someone from India visits the Prambanan temple in Indonesia, they experience the same spiritual feeling as they feel in Kashi and Kedarnath.

The stories of Kakawin and Serat Ramayaba evoke the same emotions as Valmiki Ramayana and Ramcharitmanas in India, he added.

INSIDER TRACK

With Analytico in, can Congress replicate Amethi magic in Delhi?

The agency, Analytico Data Analysis Pvt Ltd, which worked with the Congress in Amethi during the last Lok Sabha elections and also the Jharkhand assembly elections, has been brought in to boost the party's prospects for the upcoming Delhi elections at the request of the central leadership. Their role involves supporting booth-level coordination and election strategies to ensure the party remains competitive. The agency has identified 20 assembly seats with significant Muslim and Dalit populations, including Badli, Jangpura, Chandni Chowk, Matia Mahal and Sultanpur Majra. They are also refining strategies like Dalit outreach, led by Rahul Gandhi. According to the agency, the party has a good chance of winning five of these seats.

Govt adopts no-risk approach in hunt for next SEBI chief face

With the Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch's tenure set to end on February 28, the government has initiated the process of finding a replacement. Earlier this week, the government put out an advertisement, in search for the right face for the top post. Officials concerned indicate that this time, the government is careful about appointing private sector professionals, especially in light of the Hindenburg controversy surrounding Buch. With sources in North Block hinting that the next SEBI chief could come from a bureaucracy, financial services or regulatory sector background, some names are doing the rounds as possible choices. This include Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority chairperson Debashish Panda and former SBI MD Dinesh Khara.

From conferences to concerts, India plays host to large events

On January 25-26, Coldplay set a new record for the largest stadium concert of the 21st century, drawing over 15,00,000 fans to Ahmedabad and breaking George Strait's record of 1,10,905 attendees in Texas. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been an ardent advocate of India taking its rightful place as a host for largescale events — with its rich heritage of music and dance, and its ability to organise massive gatherings from cricket matches to religious and cultural festivals. He reiterated this message at the 'Make in Odisha Conclave' as well. As officials work on this vision, many recall the creation of the Raisina Dialogue in 2016, an annual conclave organised by the External Affairs Ministry in partnership with a private think-tank in Delhi. Modi had enquired the then-foreign-secretary-and-now-minister S Jaishankar on why Indian experts should frequently travel abroad to attend conferences rather than hosting such events in India. This made the MEA work on a conference to hold global conversations.

A foolproof charge sheet that helped seal Tahawwur Rana's fate

As both India and the US work on procedures to extradite 26/11 Mumbai terror attack mastermind Tahawwur Hussain Rana, many in the National Investigation Agency (NIA) believe that the US Supreme Court rejected Rana's review petition due to a foolproof charge sheet making for an airtight case. The charge sheet was the result of meticulous investigation carried out by NIA inspector general Sanjeev Singh, a 1987-batch Bihar cadre IPS officer, who died in 2020. Though Singh is no more around to see the fruition of his labour, he has backed every charge with undeniable evidence, which became the foundation for Indian investigators to convince their US counterparts about Rana's role. According to an associate of Singh, who was part of the probe team, "After completing the investigation, sir named two serving Pakistani Army officers in the charge sheet for the first time. They were Major Iqbal and Major Sameer Ali."

Govt gears up to counter Oppn on 'One Nation One Election'

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE BJP-led NDA government is intensifying its efforts to gain support for the 'One Nation, One Election' (ONOE) initiative. Recently, the NDA held a meeting to strategise on how to counter Opposition and present the significant Bill.

According to a senior BJP leader, the government's focus remains on addressing all legal hurdles of the proposal to ensure smooth implementation.

The cabinet has already approved the One Nation, One Election Bill. Sources indicate that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has directed his ministers to take the message directly to the public to explain the necessity and potential benefits of the ONOE system, particularly in terms of reducing election-related costs, improving governance efficiency, and aligning the electoral cycle for a more streamlined process.

"The government is optimistic that by engaging with the public about the bill's advantages, they can build widespread support, overcoming Opposition concerns and legal challenges that may arise," said a source, adding that the NDA allies would, after wider consultation, reach out to people.

A source also said that the BJP's strategic move aims to present a unified front and counter any challenges posed by Opposition parties. After the Waqf Amendment Bill, which has been widely criticised, the NDA leaders are keen to emphasise the positive aspects of the ONOE ahead of the next general elections, due in 2029.

As the ONOE Bill is another major legislative priority, the NDA government will proceed cautiously, taking all allies into confidence. "This bill proposes a synchronised schedule for state and national elections, aiming to reduce the frequency of elections, lower costs, and streamline the electoral process," a BJP leader said.

Indo-Japanese film on Ramayana screening in House

Following PM Narendra Modi's mention of the 1993 Japanese-Indian animation film 'Ramayana: The Legend of Prince Rama' during his radio broadcast 'Mann Ki Baat' recently, a special screening of the film is scheduled for lawmakers in Parliament on February 15. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, MPs and other guests will attend the screening.

Centre defers Waqf Bill report tabling in LS, Oppn says dissent notes edited

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THOUGH the report of the Joint Committee of Parliament (JPC) on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024 figured in Monday's list of business in Lok Sabha, the government has deferred it for another day.

According to the 'List of Business' of the Lok Sabha Secretariat on Sunday, the chairman of the committee, Jagdambika Pal, along with BJP MP Sanjay Jaiswal, were scheduled to present the report in the Lower House on Monday.

Both the members were also to lay on the table the record of evidence given before the Joint Committee of Parliament (JPC). However, in a late evening development, the Waqf Bill was removed from the revised list.

This comes amid Opposition charges that parts of their dissent notes on the Waqf Bill were redacted without consent. Congress MP Syed Naseer Hussain and AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi raised similar concerns on Saturday.

"As a Member of the JPC on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, I had submitted a detailed dissent note opposing the Bill. Shockingly, parts of my dissent note have been redacted without my knowledge! The Joint Committee on Waqf (Amendment) Bill ... was already reduced to a farce, but now they've stooped even lower — censoring dissenting voices of Opposition MPs! What are they so scared of? Why this attempt to silence us?" Hussain wrote on X.

However, speaking to this newspaper, Pal said Owaisi's dissent notes ran into 200 pages and the dissent notes served no purpose after the amendments were passed.

The Waqf Act of 1995, enacted to regulate Waqf properties, has long been criticised for mismanagement, corruption and encroachments.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, aims to address these challenges by introducing reforms such as digitisation, enhanced audits, improved transparency, and legal mechanisms to reclaim illegally occupied assets.

Experts say defence needs more capital for capacity building, modernisation

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

CALLING the 2025-26 Budget for defence status quoist, experts said India needs to build capacity to utilise the allocated funds by strengthening the indigenisation goal.

Defence Budget has been pegged at ₹6,81,210.27 crore ₹6,21,540.85 crore for 2024-25, an increase of 9.6 per cent.

Retired Major General Sudhakar Jee said the allocation has declined between 2012-13 and 2023-24 from 16.4% to 12.9%. It stands at 1.9% of the projected GDP for the year. "Having the funds is just one part as we need to have the capacity to utilise the given funds," he said.

A ₹1,80,000 crore allocated for the capital expenditure subhead is an increase of about ₹8,000 crore. This fund is used for fresh projects and procurements. As per the 2024-25 data, of ₹1,72,000 crore allocated, ₹12,500 crore had to be surrendered as it remained unspent.

"To push modernisation and fill the capability gap, the defence budget should be around 2.4% of the GDP," said retired Commodore Anil jai Singh. "The budget appears to be status quoist as the international dynamics and the geo-politics is changing fast. Modernisation and capacity building require funds," he added.

"Of the ₹26,817 cr allocated to DRDO, ₹14,924 is meant for its capital procurement and R&D. So, this does not reflect well for a country which is aiming to match the niche/high end technology," Singh said.

Agri allocation: Farmer leaders say no steps for legal guarantee to MSP

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

WHILE the Union Budget positioned agriculture as the "first engine of growth" to boost the sector, farmers and agricultural experts have expressed disappointment, arguing that the budget offers little for agriculture and favours corporate interests.

Agricultural expert Davinder Sharma said that when Arun Jaitley presented his first budget in 2014, he had listed farmers' income as one of his top five priorities.

"Now, in 2025, farmers' income is at the bottom of the priority list. We had hoped that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman would continue from where Jaitley left off. While she has labelled agriculture as the first engine of growth, in reality, it remains neglected," he said.

Sharma said the total budget allocation for agriculture has increased from ₹1.52 lakh crore in 2024-25 to ₹1.71 lakh crore this year, but this amount is significantly lower than the ₹2.74 lakh crore allocated for pensions and salaries of Central government employees.

Dismissing many of the budget's agricultural initiatives as cosmetic changes, Sharma argued that significant investments were needed to make agriculture an engine of growth. "The government has announced a national mission on pulses, but such a mission was unnecessary as they have already ensured that imports are restricted," he said.

IIM Ahmedabad professor Sukhpal Singh acknowledged that the Pulses Mission could benefit farmers by mitigating market and price risks. "For the next six years, agencies like NAFED will engage in contract farming of three pulses, ensuring that the government purchases them at fair prices. This initiative is similar to the package offered to agitating farmer unions last year," he noted.

Bhartiya Kisan Union (Lakhowal) chief Harinder Singh Lakhowal said, "We expected steps to ensure a legal guarantee for MSP (minimum support price), loan waivers, and improvements to crop insurance schemes, but none of the demands were met."

STAKEHOLDERS SPEAK

- Total allocation for agriculture has increased from ₹1.52 lakh crore in 2024-25 to ₹1.71 lakh crore in 2025-26, but this amount is significantly lower than the ₹2.74 lakh crore allocated for pensions and salaries of Central government employees
- Pulses Mission could benefit farmers by mitigating market and price risks. For next 6 years, agencies like NAFED will engage in contract farming of 3 pulses, ensuring that the government purchases them at fair price
- Demands of a legal guarantee for MSP, loan waivers, and improvements to crop insurance schemes are not met

Medicos welcome addition of 10K seats, but caution 'must ensure quality, jobs'

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

THE Union budget 2025 has announced 10,000 additional medical seats in India, intending to add 75,000 in the next five years. Medicos welcomed the move, but many raised questions about the quality of education, infrastructure, and even the scarcity of jobs.

Indian Medical Association (IMA) national president Dr Dilip Bhanushali said this will ensure sufficient doctors to serve the people. "However, we expect that proper infrastructure is available in medical colleges and hospitals, including teachers for these students. With the rising number of graduates, we request that they be provided with jon opportunities."

The Economic Survey also focused on the current challenges in medical education.

While the survey noted that the shortage of physician availability in India is no longer a "primary concern" as the country would be able to meet the WHO standard norm of 1:1000 by 2030, it highlighted issues plaguing medical education — more jobs in urban areas, a shortage of specialists, remuneration, doctor migration, high medical fees, and quality of medical education.

According to former IMA president Dr Rajeev Jaydevan, simply increasing seats will not address the unequal distribution of doctors. "Young doctors naturally seek places where they can raise a family, and the lack of facilities and incentives in rural regions pushes them toward cities," he said.

In some urban areas, there is already unemployment due to an oversupply. "Increasing MBBS seats could worsen this imbalance unless parallel efforts are made to improve working conditions, ensuring better distribution," he added.

DEMOLITION AT SAMBHAL

An 'illegal mausoleum' built on a government pond in Sambhal was removed by district administration on Sunday, officials said. A complainant had alleged that "black magic" was performed at the 'mazar' on some days.

5 KILLED

35 INJURED AS BUS FALLS INTO GORGE IN GUJARAT

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	31	14	Mumbai	31	17
Bhopal	30	14	Panaji	33	22
Jaipur	26	14	Patna	25	15
Amritsar	19	10	Lucknow	29	14
Chennai	32	22	Port Blair	31	21
Kolkata	27	18	Imphal	24	09
Srinagar	10	01	Chandigarh	23	09

Kumbh gears up for 'zero-error' Snan

Seven-point special plan in place to regulate movement of devotees on Basant Panchami

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

AFTER the Mauni Amavasya stampede that claimed at least 30 lives, the Maha Kumbh Mela administration is on its toes to ensure compliance with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's directive of "zero error" ahead of Monday's final Amrit Snan on Basant Panchami.

Mela police on Sunday implemented a seven-point special plan to regulate the movement of devotees flocking the Prayagraj ghats to take holy dips.

The plan includes a no-vehicle zone in mela area, one-way traffic system, restrictions on vehicles entering Prayagraj limits, diversion plan through barricades, holding areas, and no overcrowding on ghats.

The UP government had announced deployment of two senior officers – Ashish Goyal and Bhanu Chandra Goswami – who had been posted in Prayagraj earlier and have the experience of Mela management.

ADG Bhanu Bhaskar himself is overseeing crowd control measures on the Mela grounds. On Sunday morning, he arrived at the Integrated Command and Control Centre located in the Mela Authority building and and personally issued instructions through the loudspeaker to avoid crowding of the ghats.

"Clear the area so that other devotees may bathe. Do not eat or drink on the ghats and go to designated areas for refreshments," he said.

An official said the entire police force has been instructed to pay special attention to crowd control. All medical teams in the Praygaraj division have been put on high alert. More than 1,200 medical personnel are fully prepared and on standby in Mahakumbhnagar to provide immediate assistance.

The crowd for the Basant Panchami Snan is swelling, with nearly 1.23 crore devotees having taken dips by 6 pm on Sunday. Among key attraction of the Amrit Snan is the procession of saints and ascetics, including Nagas.

All India Akhara Parishad president Mahant Ravindra Puri appealed to the devotees not to create unnecessary crowding in the Sangam area. The authorities have ensured that the third and last Amrit Snan, is performed by all the 13 akharas as per guidelines agreed upon by the akhara office bearers.

Devotees take holy dip at Sangam on eve of 'Basant Panchami Amrit Snan' | PTI

Amrit Snan holds much significance for budding seers

The third and final Amrit Snan of Basant Panchami holds special significance for budding Naga sadhus who are initiated into respective akharas only after taking a holy Basant Amrit Snan at Sangam. The initiation commences with the holy bath on Makar Sankranti Snan, to be followed with the mandatory Mauni Amavasya and Basant Amrit Snans. However, in the wake of the stampede, the budding seers did not take the holy dip, leaving their initiation incomplete.

Char Dham yatra set to commence from April 30

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

THE Char Dham yatra is set to kick off on April 30, Akshaya Tritiya day, with the opening of the portals of Gangotri and Yamunotri in Uttarakhand.

During Basant Panchami on Sunday, the date for the opening of the portals of Badrinath Dham was announced at the Narendra Nagar's royal palace in Tehri. "The portals of Badrinath will open for devotees at 6 am on May 4," a spokesperson confirmed. "On April 22, sesame oil will be offered, and on the same day, the 'Gadu Ghada oil pot' procession will commence," a temple official said.

The opening of the Kedarnath Dham portal will be determined on February 26 during Mahashivratri at Omkareshwar Temple in Ukhimath. As per temple officials, the date will be finalised after a Panchang calculation by the Rawal and Dharmadhikari Vedpathi.

Rawal Harish Semwal, president of the Gangotri Temple Committee, said, "The opening of the Gangotri Dham portals will be announced on the occasion of the Hindu New Year."

RSS-affiliated magazines to be kept in Chhattisgarh jails to 'reform' inmates

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

THE Jail department in the BJP-ruled Chhattisgarh has decided to add the Panchjanya (in Hindi) and the Organiser (in English), so-called mouthpieces of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to the libraries for inmates. The prison libraries in the state were stated to have collections of books and publications on diverse subjects.

During a recent inspection, state Director General (Jail) Himanshu Gupta found that libraries in jails do not have the weekly Panchjanya and Organiser. He instructions officials to make the magazines available in all 33 state prisons. Chhattisgarh has five central, 20 district jails and eight sub jails.

The DG believes the decision could be a good move towards reforming prisoners, giving them right guidance, improving their learning and helping mental growth. It will encourage inmates to rehabilitate themselves in mainstream society after their release, the senior officer said. Jail administrations claimed the step will also create awareness among prisoners about 'Sanatan Indian culture and patriotism'.

According to a senior officer, a prison library usually purchases newspapers, magazines and books every month. On an average, for every 50 inmates there is one newspaper and a magazine available in the prison library.

However, the Congress, questioning the decision, stated that people of the country no longer wish to read the divisive thoughts and hateful agenda promoted by the RSS-linked publications – Panchjanya and Organiser. "RSS is the ideological mentor of the BJP. And the ruling BJP in Chhattisgarh will misuse public money in the name of arranging the two weekly magazines in every jail", Sushil Anand Shukla of the Congress said.

The Panchjanya, launched in 1948, and the Organiser, founded in 1947, were not considered for Chhattisgarh prison libraries during the earlier 15-year BJP regime under Raman Singh.

SRINAGAR DIARY

FAYAZ WANI
Our correspondent in Jammu and Kashmir
fayazwani123@gmail.com

Ist J&K Budget session in 7 years from March 3

The first budget session of the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory Assembly will begin on March 3. For the first time in seven years, an elected government will present the budget. The last J&K budget was presented in the Assembly on January 11, 2018, by Dr Haseeb Drabu, the erstwhile finance minister of the PDP-BJP government, for financial year 2018-19, worth ` 80,313 crore. It would be the second session of the J&K Assembly after formation of the Omar Abdullah government. The first session was held in November, when the government passed a resolution calling for restoration of special status to J&K.

Rare Eurasian Otter spotted in Gurez Valley

The endangered Eurasian Otter has been spotted in Gurez Valley in North Kashmir's Bandipora district. A wildlife official said the otters were spotted in the centrally located tehsil of Dawar in Gurez Valley on the banks of the Kishanganga River a few days back. The official said the first documented sighting of these otters in recent times happened in August 2023 when researchers unintentionally recorded images of two Eurasian Otters near Tarbal, close to the Line of Control. Eurasian Otter is "Near Threatened" species, primarily due to destruction of its habitat and pollution.

Harshest winter days of 'Chilai Kalan' end

The 40-day period of harshest winter in Kashmir, known as 'Chilai Kalan,' ended on January 30. Chillai Kalan, which started December 21, is a period when chances of snowfall are maximum, and temperatures stay several degrees below freezing during night. During Chilai Kalan, both nights and days are colder. This year's Chilai Kalan proved to be particularly harsh with bone-chilling cold as nighttime temperatures dropped to -8.5 degrees Celsius in Srinagar on the very first day of Chilai Kalan on December 21, 2024, breaking the 50-year-old record in the Valley. Climate experts linked the unusual weather pattern in the Valley to the dry spell.

Jamtara gangs creating fake apps using OpenAI

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

CYBERCRIMINALS of Jamtara, who have been updating their tactics to adopting new ways to dupe people, have now begun creating fake applications for Android mobile phones. They have also discovered ways to prevent these fake apps from being detected by anti-virus software.

This was revealed during an investigation following the arrest of a group of cybercriminals operating under the name DK Boss in Jamtara. The gang was allegedly involved in digital frauds worth ₹11 crore related to 415 complaints across the country.

The gang was using Java programming to create malicious mobile applications in the name of government schemes like 'PM Kisan Yojna.apk' and 'PM Fasal Bima Yojna.apk' and various banks, including State Bank of India, Canara Bank, Punjab National Bank, and Axis Bank.

APK, which stands for 'Android Package Kit,' is a file format for distributing and installing apps on Android devices. The group was using sophisticated artificial intelligence in Android software development and ChatGPT for creating malware, police said.

"Some cybercriminals have learnt basic coding language required to create APK in the name of various government schemes and send these malicious files to users. Once downloaded, these files can easily hack the users' phones, steal bank account details, OTPs and date of birth using SMS and call forwarding, which is further used to conduct unauthorised transactions in bank accounts of victims," DSP Chandrashekhar, a member of the probe team in Jamtara, said.

He added that six people, who were operating under the pseudonym of DK Boss, have been arrested in the case. Data from about 2,000 Punjab National Bank and 500 Canara Bank account holders were found on their phones.

"They were not only using the apps themselves but also selling them to other criminals for ₹20,000-25,000 per APK," said the DSP. During the probe, it was found that the gang employed Chat GPT to generate new codes to further their malicious design, he added.

Himanta warns local 'Pablo Escobars' of strict police action

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

ASSAM Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday asked drug dealers to think of Assam police before engaging in the illicit trade. The threat followed destruction of poppy plantations, straddling 170 bighas (over 56 acres), on a sandbar by Goalpara police.

"Dear local Pablo Escobars, sorry to spoil your Udta Assam party! Goalpara Police destroyed 170 bighas of poppy cultivation in the Char (sandbar) areas worth ₹27.20 crore in January. So next time you think of drugs, think of Assam police first," Sarma wrote on X.

He shared a video that shows a tractor destroying poppy plantations in the presence of security personnel.

Sarma's post ensued a quick response from Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh. who appreciated the decisive measures taken by the Assam government in addressing the challenges posed by poppy cultivation.

He wrote, "We stand together and remain resolute in our shared goal of building a future where every youth of the NE (Northeast) is protected, nurtured, and given opportunity to thrive free from the shadow of drugs."

In Manipur, a joint operation by state police and central forces to destroy poppy plantations in the hills of Kangpokpi district two days ago was met with violent opposition. A large mob attacked three police vehicles and threatened personnel. Normalcy was restored after reinforcements arrived. Illegal poppy cultivations on around 45 acres of land were destroyed.

Goalpara Police destroyed 170 bighas of poppy cultivation in the Char (sandbar) areas worth ` 27.20 crore in January. Next time you think of drugs, think of Assam police first

Himanta Biswa Sarma, CM

WAR ON OPIUM

Manipur anti-drug drive meets resistance

A joint operation by Manipur police and central forces to destroy poppy plantations in the hills of Kangpokpi district two days ago was met with violent protest as a large mob attacked three police vehicles and threatened personnel.

J'khand cops launch 'chocolate war' on opium cultivation

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

IN a unique initiative to check opium cultivation, Jharkhand police has launched 'chocolate war' among villagers with police personnel visiting the weekly village 'haat' (markets) to create awareness among locals about the legal repercussions of opium cultivation. As part of this initiative, they also distribute chocolates in wrappers listing punishments for those found growing opium in their fields.

Khunti is among the worst-affected districts, where opium us grown illegally as a major crop. With support from villagers and Maoists, the opium mafia has been cultivating opium in pockets of Jharkhand under Maoist influence.

Under the aggressive anti-opium campaign launched by DGP Anurag Gupta, the police are not only taking strict action but also adopting softer measures to raise awareness among villagers about the consequences of cultivating and consuming opium.

As per to Khunti SP Aman Kumar, while the district administration has launched a campaign to destroy crops in fields, a team is also working to create awareness and motivate villagers to give up illegal opium farming and adopt alternative cultivations.

Villagers are provided legal aspects of opium cultivation through street plays in the weekly 'haats' and announcements by public address system. "People are given chocolates at weekly 'haats' urging them to stay away from opium cultivation. The chocolate wrapper bears a warning inscribed on its: "If found involved (in opium cultivation), one will be arrested; punishment involves ten years to life imprisonment. Their property will also be confiscated under Narcotics act."

JAIPUR LITERATURE FESTIVAL

Three Worlds: Memoirs of an Arab Jew

PRIYAMVADA RANA @ Jaipur

THE morning of Day 4 at the Jaipur Literature Festival began on a nostalgic note. At the session, 'Three Worlds: Memoirs of an Arab Jew', organised by The New Indian Express, author and historian Avi Shlaim talked about his memoir with old friend and American historian Eugene Rogan.

The author discussed how his book offers a deeply personal and poignant account of the Jewish community that once thrived in Iraq – his home for the first five years of his life between 1945-50.

"Before 1948, there was a thriving Jewish community in the Middle East countries like Iran, Egypt, Iraq, and North Africa. Specially in Iraq, the Jewish community was well integrated into Iraqi society and even hand close bonds with locals. My family and I had a very comfortable life amid the prevailing religious tolerance towards minorities. My fondest memories are the ones where I slept under the starry sky at night on the roof and my garden table where we relished the feasts," Shlaim said.

Historians Avi Shlaim and Eugene Rogan during a session organised by The New Indian Express at the Jaipur Literature Festival on Sunday | EXPRESS

Shlaim's world changed after the Farhud – an anti-Jewish programme in Baghdad in 1941. "It led to attacks on the Jewish community; murder, rape, looting and destruction of Jewish homes and businesses. We were left in shambles. Many Jewish families lost their Muslim friends in Baghdad as they were made to flee," the author recollects pieces from shattered lives

Zionism, a movement towards 're-establishment of a Jewish nation' through formation of Israel in 1948, also contributed to displacement of Arab Jews.

"Zionism supported only European Jews; Iraqi Jews like us considered ourselves Arab Jews and had a distinct identity. When we were made to flee Baghdad to be in the new country of Israel, it felt like being uprooted like a tree from its roots. When many Jews came to Isreal, at the airport, they were sprayed with chemicals like DDT as part of disinfection, leading to a sense of dehumanisation in Isreal. I felt inferior as an Iraqi Jew living in Israel in the 1950s."

He also shared that while his family endured much hardships for survival, his father went absolutely silent, out of hopelessness and depression. "My mother stayed resilient. She took a telephonist job and became the breadwinner of the family when my father lost his business and fortune. She kept hopes when survival seemed difficult," he said remembering his mother Saida Shlaim.

As the Israel-Palestine conflict is still not resolved, despite years of violence, refugee crisis, and deepening divide, Shlain hopes for a better future. He said, " the two-state solution is there due to the Israeli settlement. I advocate one state where people can live peacefully, irrespective of religion, ethnicity, region, language."

In Three Worlds: Memoirs of an Arab Jew, Avi Shlaim memoir brings to life the cultural richness of Arab-Jewish experience exploring complexities of identity and belonging.

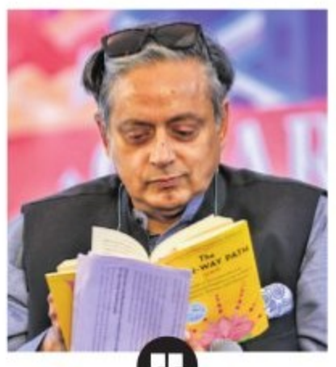
Citing Vivekananda, Tharoor says mine is not only way of Hinduism

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

AUTHOR and parliamentarian Shashi Tharoor, slamming 'Hindutva politics' at the Jaipur Literature Festival on Sunday, said some people have reduced Hinduism to "something like the team identity of the British football hooligan" who become violent if someone doesn't support the team of their choice. Tharoor argued that religion is essentially a private domain, that ought to be independent of state encroachment.

The Congress MP claimed that the people who have such a mindset often say, "if you don't support my team, I'm going to hit you on the head. Similarly, some say if you don't say, Jai Shri Ram, I'm going to flog you." Tharoor added, "That's not Hinduism. That has nothing to do with Hinduism."

Tharoor was sharing the stage with Spanish writer and co-author of the global bestseller 'Ikigai' Francesc Miralles and discussed the way of Purusharthas – the four goals of human life.



There is no place for saying, mine is the only way in Hinduism. There is no place for saying, as some unfortunately now claim in the name of Hinduism... they reduce it to something like the team identity of the British football hooligan

Shashi Tharoor, Congress MP & author

The MP referred to Swami Vivekananda's teachings as he said that there are four ways to be a good Hindu. Tharoor also quoted Swami Vivekananda to assert that "the Hindu will never light the fires of inquisition." He argued that "there is no place for saying, mine is the only way in Hinduism. There is no place for saying, as some unfortunately now claim in the name of Hinduism – they reduce it to something like the team identity of the British football hooligan."

While discussing the different paths of Hinduism, Tharoor made a veiled attack on the BJP and RSS brand of politics. In an implicit criticism of right-wing politics.

In another session Bollywood actor and director Amol Palekar also claimed that Indian Democracy is now in danger of turning into a mobocracy as he slammed the tendency these days to debunk all criticism of political leaders and the government as an anti-national act. He claimed the tendencies to curb dissent are becoming more dominant in Indian politics these days.

56
Killed as fighting grips Sudan's capital

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	1	-6	SNY	Los Angeles	17	7	SNY
Colombo	30	25	SNY	Melbourne	22	15	SNY
Dhaka	28	17	SNY	Moscow	5	3	LC
Dubai	24	18	SNY	New York	5	3	LR
Houston	22	9	SNY	Singapore	31	24	SNY
Istanbul	15	8	SNY	Toronto	1	-12	LC
London	8	3	LR	Washington	11	7	LR

Netanyahu heads to US to discuss 'victory'

While the Israeli PM will meet Donald Trump on Tuesday, negotiations for the second phase are set to begin today

TEL AVIV

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday he will discuss "victory over Hamas," countering Iran and expanding diplomatic relations with Arab countries in his meeting with US President Donald Trump.

Tuesday's meeting at the White House will be Trump's first with a foreign leader since returning to office. It comes as US and Arab mediators begin the daunting work of brokering the next phase of an agreement to wind down the war in the Gaza Strip and release dozens of militant-held hostages.

Hamas, which has quickly reasserted its control over Gaza since the ceasefire took hold last month, has said it will not release the hostages slated to go free in the second phase without an end to the war and the full withdrawal of Israeli forces.

Netanyahu is under mounting pressure from far-right governing partners to resume the war after the first phase ends in early March. He has said Israel is still committed to victory over Hamas and the return of all the hostages captured in the militants' Oct. 7, 2023, attack that triggered the war.

It's unclear where Trump stands.

He has been a staunch supporter of Israel, but has also pledged to end wars in the Middle East and took credit for helping to broker the ceasefire agreement. The deal has halted the fighting and led to the release of 18 hostages who had been held for over 15 months, as well as hundreds of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel.

Palestinian prisoners are greeted in the West Bank city of Ramallah after being released from Israeli prison following the ceasefire agreement | AP

In a statement released ahead of his departure on Sunday, Netanyahu said they would discuss "victory over Hamas, achieving the release of all our hostages and dealing with the Iranian terror axis in all its components," referring to Iran's alliance of militant groups across the region, including Hamas. He said that by working together, they could "strengthen security, broaden the circle of peace and achieve a remarkable era of peace through strength."

Negotiations on the second phase, in which the war would end and the remaining 60 or so hostages would be returned, are set to begin Monday. If the United States, Qatar and Egypt are unable to broker an agreement between Israel and Hamas, the war could resume in early March.

Trump's Mideast envoy, Steve Witkoff, joined the yearlong ceasefire negotiations in their final weeks last month. Witkoff and Netanyahu are expected to formally begin talks on the second phase in Washington on Monday. *AP*

WAR WATCH

ISRAEL-GAZA: DAY 485

TOLL SO FAR
49,376

Turkey to take in some Palestinians

Turkey could take in some Palestinian prisoners freed by Israel under the terms of its ceasefire deal with Hamas, Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said during a visit to Qatar on Sunday. The first phase of the ceasefire in Gaza centres on the release of 33 Israeli hostages held by Hamas in return for the freeing of around 1,900 prisoners, mostly Palestinians, being held in Israeli jails. Many of those prisoners, however, are to be permanently exiled upon their release. Of the 183 freed on Saturday, eight were deported

IDF destroys several buildings in West Bank

The Israeli military said it had destroyed "several buildings" on Sunday in the occupied West Bank city of Jenin, where it has been conducting a major offensive. "As part of the operation to thwart terrorism... the IDF (military) recently destroyed several buildings in Jenin," the military said in a statement, adding that the structures "were used as terrorist infrastructure". News agency *WAFA* said Israeli forces "simultaneously detonated about 20 buildings" in the eastern part of Jenin refugee camp, adding that the explosions were heard throughout Jenin city

FIVE-YEAR PRISON

Usage of AI child abuse tools to be criminalised in UK

LONDON

BRITAIN will become the first country to introduce laws against AI tools used to generate sexual abuse images, the government announced on Saturday.

The government will make it illegal to possess, create or distribute AI tools designed to generate sexualised images of children, punishable by up to five years in prison, interior minister Yvette Cooper revealed.

It will also be illegal to possess AI "paedophile manuals" which teach people how to use AI to sexually abuse children, punishable by up to three years in prison.

"This is a real disturbing phenomenon. Online child sexual abuse material is growing, but also the grooming of children teenagers online. And what's now happening is that AI is putting this on steroids," interior minster Yvette Cooper told *Sky News* on Sunday.

She said AI tools were making it easier for perpetrators "to groom children, and it's also meaning that they are manipulating images of children and then using them to draw and to blackmail young people into further abuse.

"It's just the most vile of crimes," she added.

The new law would include banning "some of the AI models being used for child abuse," said the minister.

"Other countries are not yet doing this, but I hope everyone else will follow," she added.

AI tools are being used to generate child sexual abuse images by "nudeifying" real life images of children or by "stitching the faces of other children onto existing images," said the government.

The new laws will also criminalise "predators who run websites designed for other paedophiles to share vile child sexual abuse content or advice on how to groom children," punishable by up to ten years in prison, said the government.

Cooper told the *BBC* on Sunday that a recent inquiry had found that around 500,000 children across the UK are victims of child abuse of some form each year, "and the online aspect of that is an increasing and growing part of it". *AFP*

This is a real disturbing phenomenon. Online child sexual abuse material is growing, but also the grooming of children teenagers online. And what's now happening is that AI is putting this on steroids

Yvette Cooper, Interior Minister

Musk-led DOGE gains access to sensitive govt payments data

WASHINGTON

THE Department of Government Efficiency, run by President Donald Trump's billionaire adviser and Tesla CEO Elon Musk, has gained access to sensitive Treasury data including Social Security and Medicare customer payment systems, according to two people familiar with the situation.

The move by DOGE — a Trump administration task force assigned to find ways to fire federal workers, cut programmes and slash federal regulations — could have wide leeway to access important taxpayer data, among other things.

The New York Times first reported the news of the group's access to the massive federal payment system.

The highest-ranking Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee, Ron Wyden of Oregon, on Saturday sent a letter to Trump's Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent expressing concern that 'officials associated with Musk may have intended to access these payment systems to illegally withhold payments to any number of programmes.'

"To put it bluntly, these payment systems simply cannot fail, and any politically motivated meddling in them risks severe damage to our country and the economy," Wyden said.

The news also comes after Treasury's acting Deputy Secretary David Lebryk resigned from his position at the Treasury after more than 30 years of service. *The Washington Post* on Friday reported that Lebryk resigned his position after Musk and his DOGE organization requested access to sensitive Treasury data. *PTI*

ASIA MATTERS

COCONUT PRICES RISE SHARPLY

Coconut prices have surged in Malaysia amid a shortage caused by unfavourable weather, prompting state and community leaders to urge *Thaipusam* participants to break fewer coconuts during the colourful Hindu festival this month, *CNA* reported. Batu Caves Hindu temple committee chairman R Nadarajah said he would personally advise devotees to break only one coconut, reported news outlet the *Malay Mail* on Sunday. "As long as you do it with genuine devotion, the number of coconuts doesn't matter," he reportedly said. Thaipusam on Feb 11 is a public holiday in Malaysia.

BALI BOMBER ASKS PREZ FOR PARDON

Convicted Bali bomber Ali Imron is pressing Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto for a pardon, citing his years of cooperation with counterterrorism efforts and the recent release of Australian drug offenders who had been given life sentences as reasons for leniency, *SCMP* reported. Imron has spent the last 22 years in prison.

20,000 DUST PROOF ROOMS TARGETED

Thailand's Health Department plans to increase the number of restaurants with dust-proof rooms to 20,000 nationwide within three months, *The Straits Times* reported. Dr Thiti Sawaengtham, deputy director-general of the department, said that currently, 234 restaurants in nine provinces have dust-proof rooms. The department aims to increase this number to provide more options for patrons with health concerns. Initially, the department will train the owners of more than 50 restaurants in Bangkok on how to set up dust-proof rooms as a service.

FRENCH PM WARNS TO PASS BUDGET WITHOUT VOTE FROM LAWMAKERS

PARIS

POLITICAL uncertainty is again looming in France after Prime Minister Francois Bayrou warned that he would use special executive powers this week to get his budget approved without a vote by lawmakers.

The move is expected to trigger a motion of no confidence. Depending on whether political forces across the political board join forces, this could lead to Bayrou's downfall. That's what happened in December, when a confidence motion triggered by budget disputes forced PM Michel Barnier to resign. Speaking to *La Tribune Dimanche* media, Bayrou said he will use a constitutional tool known as Article 49.3, which allows the government to pass legislation without a parliamentary vote but leaves it exposed to confidence motions.

On Monday, French lawmakers are set to debate the conclusions of a joint Parliamentary committee on the state budget and will turn their attention to the social security budget later in the week. "Now we have to go straight to adoption," Bayrou said. "A country like ours cannot be without a budget. The only way to do that is to make the government responsible."

The looming showdown unfolds against the backdrop of a fractured National Assembly, left in disarray after June's snap elections delivered no clear majority.

President Emmanuel Macron turned to Barnier in September in a bid to navigate the impasse. But Barnier's proposed austerity budget — slashing $42 billion in spending and raising taxes by 20 billion euros — only deepened divisions, inflaming tensions in the lower house. *AP*

SYRIAN PREZ TRAVELS TO SAUDI ON MAIDEN TRIP

Syria's interim president made his first trip abroad on Sunday, traveling to Saudi Arabia in a move likely trying to signal Damascus' shift away from Iran as its main regional ally. Ahmad al-Sharaa, who was once aligned with al-Qaida, landed in Riyadh alongside his government's foreign minister, Asaad al-Shaibani.

Japan's space agency launches navigation satellite on new rocket

TOKYO

JAPAN's space agency said on Sunday it successfully launched a navigation satellite on its new flagship H3 rocket as the country seeks to have a more precise location positioning system of its own. The H3 rocket carrying the Michibiki 6 satellite lifted off from the Tanegashima Space Center on a southwestern Japanese island.

Everything went smoothly and the satellite successfully separated from the rocket as planned about 29 minutes after the liftoff, said Makoto Arita, H3 project manager for the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA.

Officials said it is expected to reach its targeted geospatial orbit in about two weeks.

Japan currently has the quasi-zenith satellite system, or QZSS, with four satellites for a regional navigation system that first went into operation in 2018. The Michibiki 6 will be the fifth of its network.

Michibiki's signals are used to supplement American GPS and will further improve positioning data for smartphones, car and maritime navigation and drones. Japan plans to launch two more navigation satellites to have a seven-satellite system by March 2026 in order to have a more precise global positioning capability without relying on foreign services, including the US, according to the Japan Science and Technology Agency. By the late 2030s, Japan plans to have an 11-satellite network. Sunday's launch, delayed by a day due to the weather, was the fourth consecutive successful flight for the H3 system after a shocking failed debut attempt last year when the rocket had to be destroyed with its payload. *AP*

The H3 Launch Vehicle No 5, carrying the Quasi-Zenith Satellite "Michibiki No 6," lifts off at a launch pad in southern Japan on Sunday | AP

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) | CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai- 600031.
Tel : +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)** The loans of the below-mentioned borrowers and co- borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)** are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates.

Sr No.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Name of borrowers and co-borrowers	Section 13 (2) Notice Date	Outstanding amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice
1	10056619635 10075801589 & 10022585127	BBG	1. S S Exports 2. Manjunath H B 3. Geetha Mani	29.01.2025	INR 2,10,45,051.00/-

Property Address : Property-1:- All That Piece And Parcel Of Apartment Unit/flat Bearing No. 207/1, Admeasuring 900 Sq. Ft. Of Super Built Up Area, & Unit/flat Bearing No. 207/2, Admesuring 594 Sq. Ft. Of Super Built-up Area, Totally Measuring 1494 Sq. Ft., Of Supert Built Up Area Situated On The Second Floor, In The Apartment Building Known As The " Spring Serenity" Along With Proportionate Total Uds Of (317 Sq. Ft + 209 Sq. Ft.) 526 Sq. Ft. & One Covered Car Parking Consisting Of R.C.C. Frame, Vitrified Flooring Tile, Teakwood Doors And Aluminium Windows, Situated At Residential Site Property Bearing Municipal No. 616/31/7, Hennur Village, Hennur Main Road, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore Urban District Now Within Jurisdictional Limits Of Bbmp Ward No. 24, And Bounded As: **East : Common Area, West : Open Area, North : Flat No. 208, South : Open Area**
Property-2:- All That Piece And Parcel Of Apartment Flat Bearing 2013 (3bhk), Constructed In First Floor, In The Multi Storied Building Known As "Roshan Gardenida Apartment", Admeasuring 1520 Sq. Ft. (supert Built-up Area), Along With Undivided Interest In The Common Passage, Stair Case, Lobbies, Ets. With All Amenities Including One Covered Car Parking In The Cellar/ground Floor, Situated At Residential Site Property Bearing No. 1373, Converted Survey No. 95/2, And 95/3, At Uttarahalli Village & Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bangaluru, And Bounded As: **East : Sy No. 45, 48, 49 And 95/3, West : Sy No. 95/2, 95/1-A, North: Sy No. 95/1-B, 43, South: Sy No. 91**
Boundaries Of The Flat No. 2013:- East : Door, West : Open To Sky, North : Flat No. 2012, South : Flat No. 2014

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)** as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc., within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)** Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured assets either by way of sale/lease or otherwise.

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
IDFC First Bank Limited
(erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)

Date : 03.02.2025
Place : Bangalore, Karnataka

Government of Odisha
Information & Public Relations Department
Loka Sampark Bhawan, Bhubaneswar
Corrigendum Notice

File No. IPR-PM-MISC-0006-2022 1870 / I&PR, BBSR, dated : 02.02.2025

Z: A few modifications are incorporated in the RFP No-885 Dt-16/01/2025 published by I&PR Department on Dt.- 17/01/2025 in The Samaj, The Sambad, The Prameya, The Times of India, The Hindustan Times (New Delhi Edition) and The New Indian Express (All Edition)

The intending bidders may visit https://inpr.odisha.gov.in for the details.

OIPR- 15001/11/0414/2425 Sd/- Director, I&PR

ANDHRA PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
HEAD OFFICE: 10-152/1, ASHOKNAGAR, BANDAR ROAD, VIJAYAWADA-520007

SHORT TENDER NOTICE (2nd call)

MKTG/MG/0888/ICDS/FP.OIL TENDER/FEB, 25 TO APR, 25 DT: 02.02.2025

BIDS ARE INVITED FROM THE ELIGIBLE BIDDERS FOR SUPPLY OF 1362 KLS OF FORTIFIED EDIBLE P.OIL WITH VITAMIN A & D IN ONE (1) LITRE & HALF (1/2) LITRE WITH SECONDARY PACKING SHALL BE 12/16 LITER POUCHES IN 1 CARTON TO ALL MLS POINTS OF THE THREE ZONES COMPRISING OF 26 DISTRICTS IN ANDHRA PRADESH FOR DISTRIBUTION UNDER ICDS/THR SCHEME FOR THE MONTHS OF Feb, 2025 to April 2025 THROUGH NCDEX e-Markets Limited (NeML) PLATFORM.

Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd invites Short Tenders for supply of 1362 KLs of Fortified Edible P.Oil with Vitamin A & D in One (1) Litre & Half (1/2) Litre with Secondary Packing shall be 12/16 Liter Pouches in 1 Carton to all MLS Points of the three zones comprising of 26 Districts in Andhra Pradesh. All the interested bidders within Andhra Pradesh may visit www.apscscl.in & www.neml.in to view and download tender documents at free of cost. Interested bidders need to register in portal as vendor i.e., in NCDEX e Markets Limited Contact: Tel: 9962059599 or 9032429420 or 9885549722 and Email: askus@neml.in. Last date for registration and completion of formalities for the e-auction shall be up to **11.02.2025 up to 5.00 pm** and the tentative date of online e-reverse auction through NCDEX e-MARKETS LIMITED (NEML) platform would be **13.02.2025 at 11** am onwards.

Sd/- VC & MANAGING DIRECTOR

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT STOCK (SECURITIES)
Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru

No: FD 01 BMB 2024 Dated: 31.01.2025

NOTICE

1. Aggregate Amount : Total Rs.1000 crore (Rs.1000 crore-10 Year and 6 Months Tenure)
2. Method of Issue : By auction, through PDO, RBI, Mumbai (Fort)
3. Date of auction : February 04,2025

Government of Karnataka invites subscription to the above securities. Copies of the Notification and Application forms may be obtained from PDO, RBI, Bangalore. Non-competitive bidding facility has been introduced by RBI to encourage participation of retail investors. The Government stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions. Sample Tender Forms and the revised scheme of Non-competitive bidding facility is available on the website **www.rbi.org.in.**

Sd/- (Dr. P.C Jaffer)
Secretary to Government
(Budget & Resources), Finance Department

DIPR/CP/4725/Zen/2024-25

Realtors see boom after budget tax sops

Allowing 2 houses to be marked as self-occupied, doubling tax exemption on rental income to boost housing sector

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ MUMBAI

THE realty sector is pleased as punch with the budget announcement as it will boost the housing sector in general and rental housing in particular. It continues to focus on affordable housing.

The budget has massively increased the income tax exemption limits to R12 lakh per annum under the new tax regime, which will encourage people to invest in real estate in general and housing in particular. The second give-away of allowing homeowners to mark two homes as self-occupied (provided one is not rented out, and claim nil valuation), is a big boost to rental housing.

The third measure of more than doubling the income tax cap on rental income to R6 lakh from next fiscal from the present R2.4 lakh, will give another leg-up to rental housing both for homeowners as well as for those taking homes on rent. In effect, the second measure of allowing nil valuation of two homes is more of a process easing than actual tax benefits.

Until fiscal 2019, the threshold on tax deducted at source or TDS for rental incomes was R1.8 lakh per year, as per Section 194-I of the income tax act, while the extant income tax exemption limit is capped at R7 lakh provided one chooses to be in the new tax regime. The optimism spawns from the fact that as many as three quarters of the 30 million taxpayers are in the new regime, according to finance and revenue secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey.

Some real estate experts consider allowing homeowners to declare two houses as "self-occupied" with nil value is the

biggest tax relief and it will give further impetus to rental housing. Anuj Puri, chairman of Anarock group, said investors can now claim "nil valuation" for two self-occupied properties, instead of just one and this is a big positive move for residential realty investment, while higher income tax exemption caps will boost fresh home investments. "The simplified TDS on rent decreases the compliance burden and enhances liquidity for landlords and will positively impact the rental housing market, especially in the metros. Previously, homeowners could claim only one self-occupied property as tax-free; now, they can claim two, thus removing taxation on notional rental income from a second home," he says, adding this minimises tax pressures, promotes homeownership, and facilitates real estate investment.

"Middle-class homebuyers, landlords, and investors can now benefit from reduced tax liabilities, better affordability, and less compliance hassles," he adds. Puri further says by simplifying financial constraints and tax rules, the budget has made property ownership and rental housing more accessible. According to Abhilash Pillai, a partner at law firm Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, exempting rent up to ₹6 lakh from TDS will greatly benefit tenants, who account for 40% of residential rentals.

"The move will ease the financial burden on middle-class families, who often struggle with high rental costs and additional deductions. It will also encourage more investor-owners to rent out properties without worrying about paying tax, boosting the residential realty by improving supply and affordability," he says.

According to Pradeep Aggarwal, founder-chairman of realty player Signature Global, income tax relief is a masterstroke of direct tax reforms and that the exemption in income up to ₹12 lakh will significantly boost disposable income.

INDUSTRY VIEW

VENKATRAMAN NARAYANAN

Budget 2025: Paving the way for a digital and inclusive India

THE Union Budget charts a bold path toward India's emergence as a global economic powerhouse, prioritising digital infrastructure, innovation, and sustainability as key drivers of growth. By prioritising technology, skilling, and inclusive development, the government has laid the foundation for a future aligned with India's aspirations.

Digital infrastructure: The engine of growth

India's digital infrastructure is the primary focus in this year's budget. Investments in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), and deep tech are set to accelerate transformation across sectors. The government's dedication to establishing India as a global center for technological development is demonstrated by the creation of Centers of Excellence in AI and the funding of research and development (R&D).

Furthermore, the FM's announcement of around 10,000 new fellowships for technological research in premier institutions like IITs and IISc is a commendable step. These initiatives will not only drive breakthroughs in AI, ML, and renewable energy but also create a talent pool capable of leading India's tech revolution.

Skilling for a future-ready workforce

The budget's focus on skilling initiatives, particularly the enhancement of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), is a significant step toward building a future-ready workforce. As industries evolve in the era of Industry 4.0, the demand for a skilled workforce equipped with cutting-edge knowledge and technical expertise is greater than ever. The focus on upskilling and reskilling will ensure that India's youth are prepared to meet the demands of a rapidly changing global economy. Moreover, the proposal to create 50,000 Atal Tinkering Labs over the next five years is another significant initiative. These labs will provide young minds with hands-on experience and the tools required to turn their innovative ideas into reality.

The focus on upskilling and reskilling will ensure that India's youth are prepared to meet the demands of a rapidly changing global economy.

Start-ups and innovation

The budget's support for start-ups and innovation is a game-changer for India's entrepreneurial landscape. The launch of a new Fund of Funds with an expanded scope and a fresh contribution of ₹10,000 crore will provide much-needed financial support to start-ups, particularly in sectors like AI, clean tech, and renewable energy. This will foster an atmosphere that is favourable for entrepreneurs to flourish, especially when combined with government initiatives to streamline laws and facilitate business transactions. Establishing a light-touch regulatory framework founded on values and trust will increase employment and productivity while facilitating corporate operations and innovation.

Ease of doing business

The tax reforms announced under the ease of doing business focus is again a welcome step. Pertaining to compliance aspects such as safe harbour rules, simplification of international transaction pricing, reduction on compliance related checklist for small trusts and extending time limit for updated IT Returns will enable the businesses to focus on their core proposition and thereby result into an overall positive sentiment across the corporate ecosystem.

Looking ahead

The Union Budget 2025-2026 is a testament to the government's commitment to building a Viksit Bharat. By focusing on digital infrastructure, innovation, entrepreneurship, employment and skilling, and inclusive growth, this budget lays a strong foundation for future development. It addresses current challenges while preparing India for upcoming opportunities. As we move forward, effective implementation of these initiatives will be crucial in realising our vision for a prosperous, inclusive, and technologically advanced Bharat.

(The writer is Managing Director & Chief Financial Officer, Happiest Minds Technologies)

MONEY-WISE

THE ROLE OF GOLD IN HEDGING EQUITY

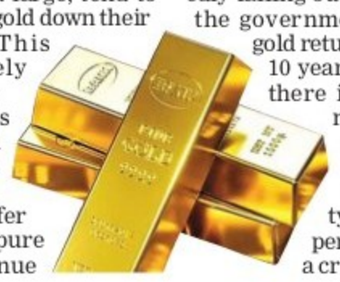
FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
Head of LKW-India.
He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com
(Views expressed here are personal)

GOLD yielded the best returns across traditional asset classes in the last quarter of 2024. Smart investors have historically used gold as a natural hedge in their portfolios to their equity holdings as in periods of crisis, when equities tend to consolidate or weaken, gold has surged.

This was clearly witnessed in the early months of 2020, when the first Covid wave swept across the globe. After a brief lull, it was witnessed again following the break-out of hostilities between Russia and Ukraine that escalated into a full-blown war. A weakening US dollar back then and the near complete collapse of several crypto-currencies had investors rushing back to the relative safety of the precious yellow metal, historically known to be the asset class of the last refuge.

Other than commodity traders who deal in the precious metal and are not averse to selling it when found profitable to, the rest, by and large, tend to hoard and pass gold down their generations. This trend is unlikely to change soon.



What has changed though is the growing number of investors who prefer to use gold as a pure investment avenue and accumulate it with the clear-cut intention of profiting from it at the appropriate time. So, what are the common investment avenues used by those that invest in gold? Exchange traded Funds (ETFs), Fund of Funds and till lately, Sovereign Gold bonds.

Gold ETFs are units representing physical gold in dematerialised form. One Gold ETF unit is equal to 1 gram of 24k gold, and is backed by physical gold of very high purity. Gold ETFs combine the flexibility of stock investment and the simplicity of gold investments and are listed at the premier stock exchanges, and traded just like the stock of any company. A demat account is necessary to transact in Gold ETFs and debt taxation rules are applicable on the realised gains there from.

Gold Fund of Funds, more commonly referred to as Gold Mutual Funds, are open-ended funds which invest in units of Gold ETF. The returns of these funds reflect that of the underlying Gold ETF. While these funds are very convenient for making pre-set (e.g. SIP) purchases and sales in Gold the expense ratios levied by the fund houses running them, make them marginally costlier. Its taxation is the same as ETFs.

Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs), which were relatively newer, are issued by the central bank (RBI). It periodically issues SGBs multiple times in a year and fixes a price for each issuance. However, we will defer discussing it to a later date as there is now a question mark over the SGBs with it, reportedly falling out of favour with the government. A look at gold returns over the last 10 years suggests that there is money to be made in gold by a patient investor. Be patient and bet on the ability of humans to periodically create a crisis.

MONEY MATTERS

WHAT DOES BUDGET 2025 MEAN TO YOUR MONEY

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

THE Union Budget 2025 presents an excellent opportunity for you. It is a wonderful time to review your finances and make a projection for the year ahead. That is similar to the announcement Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman made on Saturday. She presented an income and expenditure statement for the year gone by. She also touched upon estimates for the financial year ahead. She demonstrated an action plan to plug economic gaps and take relevant measures to stimulate growth. Her team worked to allocate resources based on the global and domestic macroeconomic picture.

Two markets react immediately to the Budget. While equity markets reacted benignly to the finance minister's speech, bond markets were shut on Saturday. Both markets want the government to be fiscally prudent and manage the government borrowing programme efficiently so that there is money in the banking system for businesses to stimulate growth. Analysts' reactions to the credibility of the government data were positive.

That means the government may have just ticked the right boxes. Overall, the Budget anticipates pressure on growth and outlines risks due to geo-politics in 2025-26. There are two ways the Budget affects you. First is as a taxpayer and saver, and second, as an investor.

For the taxpayer and saver in you

For the past few quarters, the urban consumer has not spent enough. If you listen to company management that rides on the money we spend, they have produced a below-par performance. The solution to low consumption is to put more money in the hands of the spending class. The new government's first year is a good time to please the middle class in India. It was mentioned in The New Indian Express on Sunday that there were barely seven taxpayers for every 100 voters in India. While the urban middle class drives consumption, it does not matter much to politicians as we head into primary, provincial and general elections.

As a salaried urban individual or a tax-paying professional, you can strengthen your finances with the tax relief you are getting. You can start building your emergency fund that you kept putting off or restart that systematic investment plan you discontinued due to money-related issues. The government ideally would like you to spend that money. The primary reason is that it would stimulate economic activity and generate demand. Remember, the government will collect indirect taxes like the Goods and Services Tax on the money you spend. So, it will receive some cashback instantly for the over ₹1,00,000 crore it is sacrificing to provide you tax relief.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

For the investor in you

The year ahead could witness a surge in the US dollar. Tariffs imposed by the US on countries like China, Mexico and Canada would push US bond yields up as inflation rises. US growth is also likely to slow if there is a prolonged trade war. All that means foreign investors would stay invested in haven assets denominated in the US dollars. Indian equities could continue to see a selloff despite good macroeconomic fundamentals.

As an investor, you are presented with a unique opportunity. India's government is looking to keep its finances healthy. The Reserve Bank of India would likely cut borrowing rates to stimulate economic activity further. That could have a positive impact on corporate profitability in the year ahead.

The government is increasingly pushing you to choose the new tax regime. The idea is to choose your investment and insurance options based on your financial goals and not by tax-saving ideas. You should buy insurance to protect life, health, and property and not to save taxes. Your financial planning deserves a credible approach to ensure a better financial future.

City Union Bank posts 13% growth in Q3 net profit

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

TAMIL Nadu-based City Union Bank has reported a 13% increase in net profit of ₹286 crore in the third quarter of 2024-25. The profit for the nine-month period of FY25 is at ₹836 crore compared to ₹761 crore in the same period last year, showing a 10% growth.

The bank earned Net Interest Income of ₹588 crore in the third quarter, registering a 14% growth compared to ₹515 crore in the same period last year. For 9 months ended FY25, the NII had grown by 9 % and stood at ₹1,715 crore as against ₹1,577 crore in the corresponding period last year. Non interest income of the bank was at ₹228 crore as against ₹193 crore a year ago, registering 18% growth. The bank made a provision of ₹402 crore as of 31 December 2024 as against ₹404 crore in the corresponding period last year.

The Gross NPA for Q3 reduced to 3.36% from 4.47% in the corresponding quarter last financial year. GNPA had shown sequential decrease for the past 6 quarters.

Net NPA was decreased to 1.42% in the current quarter from 2.19% in Q3 of FY24. The provision coverage ratio (PCR) as of 31.12.2024 is at 77%. Total deposits of the bank had increased by 11% to ₹58,271 crore in the third quarter of FY25 from ₹52,726 crore in corresponding period last year.

CASA portion stood at 28% to total deposits.

Auto sales: Maruti, Mahindra lead; Hyundai, Tata decline

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

LED by market leader Maruti Suzuki and SUV specialist Mahindra & Mahindra, India's car sales (dispatches to dealers) saw a moderate rise in January 2025. This growth at the start of the new year is a welcome boost for the industry, which faced challenges in achieving consistent growth throughout 2024.

Maruti Suzuki India (MSIL) reported its highest-ever total monthly sales tally in January 2025 with 2,12,251 units sold as against 199,364 units sold in January 2024. The carmaker's domestic dispatches last month stood at 173,599 vehicles, up 4% y-o-y. This is also MSIL's highest monthly domestic dispatches in the first 10 months of

FY2025, even surpassing the festive heavy month of October 2024 when it had sold 159,591 units.

MSIL's mini and compact cars bucked the slowdown trend seen in this segment as sales here grew to 96,488 units in January 2025 as against 92, 382 units in the same month last year. The maker of Thar and Scorpio SUVs- Mahindra & Mahindra - sold 50,659 vehicles in the domestic market in January 2025, a growth of 18% y-o-y and overall, 52,306 vehicles, including exports. Veejay Nakra, President of Automotive Division, M&M, said, "Our Electric Origin SUVs, BE6 and XEV 9E garnered a lot of interest at the recently concluded Bharat Mobility Global Expo held in New Delhi."

Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL) and Tata Motors, however, registered a decline in sales. HMIL's wholesales stood at 54,003 units in January 2025, a fall of 5% y-o-y. Tata Motors' domestic sales also took a hit in January 2025. It sold 48,076 PVs in January 2025, a decline of 10% y-o-y.

Foreigners to pay LTCG tax on par with local investors

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Mumbai

THE budget has taken away the lower capital gains tax rate that foreign funds (foreign portfolio investors) enjoyed over the locals by bringing them on par with the latter who are taxed at 12.5%. Foreign investors were paying only 10% in capital gains on their profits made from sale of listed bonds, debentures, preference shares, and unlisted securities. The goal is to make the tax rate for non-residents the same as the rate for residents.

Announcing the changes, the finance minister said in her budget speech that the revised long-term capital gains tax (LTCG) for foreign portfolio investors will be 12.5% from April 1, 2026 and not from this April, which is when budget proposals get kicked in.

The new rate will align the tax rate for FPIs with the rate for listed shares and equity-oriented mutual funds and will apply to the assessment year 2026-27 and beyond.

According to Sunil Gidwani, a partner at tax consultancy Nangia Andersen, last year when the LTCG tax rates were changed for residents, the tax rates for FPIs on shares, equity MFs and business trusts were also changed to 12.5% but LTCG on other assets such as G-secs, bonds and NCDs were left out for them, perhaps inadvertently, and continued to be taxed at 10%. This is sought to be corrected."

Pragg edges Gukesh in tiebreaker to clinch crown

Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa defeated world champion D Gukesh in tiebreaker (2-1) to win the Tata Steel Masters chess title. Earlier, both had lost their respective matches in the final round to end with 8.5 points each to set up a tiebreaker.

TWO IN A ROW: U19 WORLD CHAMPS

The Niki Prasad-led side beats South Africa by nine wickets in the summit clash as India win second World Cup

GOMESH S @Chennai

WHEN Sanika Chalke heaved Monalisa Legodi past the square-leg fielder, the Indian dugout broke out with the loudest cheer at the Bayuemas Oval, Kuala Lumpur on Sunday evening. The moment the ball touched the ropes, players ran in with flag in hand to hug and celebrate with Chalke and G Trisha in the middle.

Defending champions India had beaten South Africa by nine wickets to win the 2025 ICC Women's U19 T20 World Cup. For a bunch of teenagers who have been together several months in their pursuit of one goal, it was a moment of jubilation. Some of them could barely hold their emotions together while a few were overwhelmed with happiness. And behind every player is a story of sacrifice, heartbreaks and tireless hard work in getting to this point. G Kamalini, the 17-year-old keeper-batter from Tamil Nadu, yelled in Tamil "Cup ah thookitom (We have lifted the trophy)," in delight. Six years ago, she hadn't picked up a cricket bat. She bowled for the first time while her father Gunalan was training her brother during lockdown. It was then Gunalan and Saranya saw a dream. They shifted from a tier two town of Madurai to Chennai for Kamalini's cricket and has been with her in every step of the way. "Cannot express our happiness. For all the struggles went through, this feels like god's gift. She is our gift," an emotional Gunalan said.

Indian players celebrate after winning the U19 T20 World Cup | BCCI WOMEN X/TWITTER

₹5 CR CASH REWARD

Congratulating the India Women's U19 team, the Indian cricket board (BCCI) announced a cash reward of ₹5 crore for the victorious squad and support staff.

WINNING SQUAD G Trisha, Niki Prasad (C), Sanika Chalke (VC), Aayushi Shukla, Bhavika Ahire, Sonam Yadav, Shabnam Shakil, Ishwari Awsare, VJ Joshitha, Drithi Kesari, G Kamalini, Anandita Kishor, Mithila Vinod, Parunika Sisodia, Vaishnavi Sharma

Brief scores: SA U19 82 in 20 ovs (Mieke van Voorst 23; G Trisha 3/15) **lost to** India U19 84/1 in 11.2 ovs (G Trisha 44 n.o, Sanika Chalke 26 n.o).

Mithila Vinod, a confident Karnataka all-rounder, had made it her dream to play for India even before she was 13. VJ Joshitha, the Kerala pacer, comes from the school of S Sajana and Minnu Mani in Wayanad. Trisha, Shabnam Shakil, and Sonam Yadav who have been there before and know what it takes to win a World Cup. They came back again as better players to add another feather to their U19 careers. Then there is of course the captain — Niki Prasad. The Karnataka star missed the ticket for the 2023 edition. And yet, here she is, two years on, leading her country to glory on her own terms. "We are going to create a legacy of winning this tournament and other ICC tournaments for India," Prasad said brimming with confidence. "All of the credit goes to our support staff for making this possible and really nurturing the young players." Indeed, the support staff has played a crucial part. Head coach Nooshin Al Khadeer, Apurva Desai, Shrabani Debnath and the rest of the support staff have played a significant part in the win. Nooshin, who was also the head coach in 2023, has followed these players for more than three years now. This win only reiterates that the triumph in 2003 is not one-off.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Teen prodigy to WC hero, Trisha's story

GOMESH S @Chennai

GV RAMIREDDY is standing on the sidelines of the Bayuemas Oval, Kuala Lumpur on Sunday afternoon, visibly emotional. As he watches on, G Trisha, his 19-year-old daughter, tries to put to words what she has achieved for India and what it means to her in conversation with the official broadcaster.

The Hyderabad all-rounder had just won her second U19 Women's T20 World Cup title for India, finishing as the top run-scorer and the player of the tournament. That moment was a culmination of 15 years of hard work and sacrifice from not just Trisha but also her father Ramireddy and mother G Madhavi who moved from Bhadrachalam to Hyderabad to focus on making her a cricketer when she was almost three. Which is why, when Trisha said, "It means everything," you know she was not exaggerating. "I would like to dedicate this to my father because he is here. I don't think I would be here without him," she would add.

G Trisha with the World Cup trophy | ICC

For Reddy, the surreal moment hasn't sunk in. "Very very happy," Ramireddy told this daily. While the dream of winning a WC came true in South Africa two years ago, this victory will remain special. In 2023, Trisha was not the central figure of the campaign. Here, however, with 309 runs in seven innings at 77.25 average and 147.14 strike rate, first player to score a century in the U19 T20 WC, and seven wickets, Trisha was at the core of the Niki Prasad-led side's unbeaten run to triumph.

The numbers, the runs were never in question, and neither was the talent. But her strike rate and the way she took down bowlers in the powerplay make her a different player from what she was two years ago. "She was very disappointed when she didn't get in WPL. But then the chat we had was, don't focus on WPL. You focus on winning the World Cup for India. The franchisees should come after you," former India fielding coach R Sridhar of Coaching Beyond told this daily.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Abhishek Sharma scored second-fastest T20I century for India on Sunday | AFP

All-round Abhishek seals 4-1 win for India

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

ABHISHEK Sharma lit up the Wankhede Stadium with boundaries as India beat England by 150 runs in the fifth and final T20I to win the series 4-1. The Punjab batter smashed his second T20I century, this time 135 runs from 54 balls, before taking 2/3 as England were bundled out for 97 in the chase of 248.

Opting to field first, England were welcomed with a six off the very first ball as Sanju Samson pulled Jofra Archer into the stands. The short-ball ploy against Samson had worked so far, but this time the India opener was keen to take them on. He went on to hit another six and a four in the same over before falling to Mark Wood.

BRIEF SCORES

India 247/9 in 20 ovs (Sharma 135, Varma 24, Dube 30; Carse 3/38, Wood 2/32) **bt** England 97 in 10.3 ovs (Salt 55; Shami 3/25, Chakravarthy 2/25, Dube 2/11, Sharma 2/3).

That, however, in no way affected India as Abhishek went berserk. The southpaw hit 13 sixes and seven boundaries on his way to a 54-ball 135 while the others tried to keep up with him. Tilak Varma (24) and Shivam Dube (30) chipped as India finished with 247/9 in 20 overs.

In response, England lost Ben Duckett early to Mohammed Shami. But as it has been the case, spinners led to the visitors downfall. Ravi Bishnoi (1/9) and Varun Chakravarthy (2/25) set the ball rolling before Abhishek piled on. Dube also took a couple of wickets before Shami came back to finish things of.

The veteran pacer has blown hot and cold since his comeback during the third match in Rajkot but will take a lot of confidence from the 3/25 show against England in Mumbai on Sunday. He will be the key focus in the three-match ODI series between the two teams that begins in Nagpur on Thursday.

Gold medal-winning basketball team of TN during the presentation ceremony | PTI

NR for Vaishnav, gold for 'one-legged' Jagdish

AGENCIES @ Dehradun

MAHARASHTRA weightlifter Vaishnav Thakur broke the snatch national record in the men's 102kg category but settled for silver as he was beaten in total lift by Services' Jagdish Vishwakarma who completed his clean-and-jerk effort standing on just one leg at the National Games here Sunday.

Vaishnav lifted 160kg in the snatch section, surpassing the previous national record of 157kg which was in the name of Jagdish. But a poor clean-and-jerk effort of 175kg meant that Vaishnav finished second in total lift (335kg).

Jagdish, who could only come up with 152kg in snatch, lifted 193kg in clean and jerk for a total of 345kg to win the gold, while Haryana's Harshit Sehrawat (329kg) took the bronze. Just like he had done in a competition last year, Jagdish lifted his left leg after his clean-and-jerk effort and stood on just one leg for a fraction of a second. But by then he had completed the lift, meaning that it was a 'good lift'.

"In a competition last year, he had lifted his leg before he completed the clean-and-jerk lift and so it was declared a 'no-lift'. But today, he had already completed his lift when he stood on one leg and by then the judges had recorded it as a 'good lift'," an official at the venue said. Medals are awarded only for total lift in the National Games.

Shooting star Chouksey

Asian Games bronze-winning shooter Ashi Chouksey of Madhya Pradesh broke the women's 50m rifle 3 positions national record on her way to the gold. Chouksey scored 598, breaking the previous record of 594 set by Sift Kaur Samra in 2023.

Smaran slams ton for Karnataka in drawn match

ENS/AGENCIES

RAVICHANDRAN Smaran gave another reminder of his immense talent with an unbeaten hundred as Karnataka ended the season with a draw against Haryana in their Elite Group C match in Bengaluru on Saturday.

However, Haryana have already qualified for the knockouts from the group, starting from February 8, along with Kerala. Haryana are also the group-toppers with 29 points from seven games and Kerala finished second with 28 points. Karnataka were fourth (20) behind Bengal (21) on the table.

Starting from overnight 108 for 3 and 38 runs behind, Karnataka had some work to do to ensure that they would not end up with a defeat in their final league match. However, they lost Devdutt Padikkal (43), KL Shrijith (2) and Yashovardhan Parantap (12) in the space of 12 overs to slip to 164 for six.

The home side was just 16 runs ahead at that time, but Smaran (133 not out, 217 balls, 14x4, 2x5) and Hardik Raj (40, 78 balls, 4x4) shared an alliance of 98 runs for the seventh wicket to shore their side up.

Hyderabad's Mohammed Siraj (L) with captain CV Milind on Sunday | PTI

Vidarbha beat Hyderabad

Vidarbha's young left-arm spinner Harsh Dubey came up with an inspired show, grabbing six wickets as last year's runners-up consolidated their position at the top of Group B, defeating Hyderabad by 58 runs in Nagpur.

Dubey, who was adjudged the 'Player of the Match' for his efforts, stopped Hyderabad in the tracks on the last day of the contest as he returned figures of 6/57 in the second innings.

Hyderabad, who were out of the race for a quarterfinal berth long back, were fancying their chances of defeating the already qualified Vidarbha and bowing out on a high.

Services rout Odisha

Riding on openers Shubham Rohilla's 209 not out and Suraj Vashisht's unbeaten 154, Services achieved the second highest successful run-chase in Ranji Trophy history as they overhauled a 376-run target against Odisha without losing a wicket in their Group A match in Cuttack on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir, who recently shocked 42-time champions Mumbai by five wickets in their backyard, progressed to the quarterfinals from the group with a memorable 182-run win over Baroda in Vadodara. Services' effort is second only to Railways' 378-run chase against Tripura in Agartala last year.

Vashisht and Rohilla's unbroken 376-run partnership is also the second highest stand in a successful fourth-innings run-chase in First-Class cricket history. Services were set the imposing target after Odisha notched 394 in the second innings, with Anil Parida remaining unbeaten on 99.

SELECT SCORES

Group A: At Cuttack: Odisha 180 & 394 lost to Services 199 & 376/0 in 85.4 ovs (Suraj Vashisht 154 n.o, Shubham Rohilla 209 n.o).; **Group B: At Nagpur:** Vidarbha 190 & 355 bt Hyderabad 326 & 161 (Harsh Dubey 6/57, Parth Rekhade 2/33); **At Puducherry:** Puducherry 427 & 201/8 in 65.5 ovs (Akash Kargave 89; Abhay Negi 2/28, Devendra Singh Bora 2/25) drew with Uttarakhand 273.; **Group C: At Bengaluru:** Karnataka 304 & 294/8 in 89.5 ovs (R Smaran 133 not out, KL Rahul 43, Devdutt Padikkal 43; Anshul Kamboj 3/40, Jayant Yadav 2/62) drew with Haryana 450 all out in 115.3 ovs.

February 8-12 — Quarterfinal line-up

- J&K **vs** Kerala, Pune
- Vidarbha **vs** Tamil Nadu, Nagpur
- Haryana **vs** Mumbai, Lahli
- Saurashtra **vs** Gujarat, Rajkot

India's N Sriram Balaji (L) and Rithvik Bollipalli in action at New Delhi | PTI

India blank Togo 4-0 to book World Group I berth

AGENCIES @ New Delhi

BACKED by a passionate home crowd and a superior line-up, India cruised past Togo 4-0 to secure a place in the Davis Cup 2025 World Group I Playoffs at the DLTA Complex on Sunday. With the tie already decided in India's favour, the fifth and final match was not played.

Having taken a 2-0 lead on the opening day — thanks to emphatic victories by Sasikumar Mukund and Ramkumar Ramanathan in the singles rubbers — India needed just one more win on Sunday to seal their spot in World Group I, set to take place in September. N Sriram Balaji and Rithvik Choudary Bollipalli delivered that decisive win with clinical precision, defeating Hod'abalo Isak Padio and M'lapa Tingou Akomlo 6-2, 6-1 in the doubles rubber, ensuring India's triumph.

DAY 2 RESULTS: N Sriram Balaji/Rithvik Choudary Bollipalli (IND) **bt** Hod'abalo Isak Padio/M'lapa Tingou Akomlo (TOG) 6-2, 6-1; Karan Singh (IND) **bt** Hod'abalo Isak Padio (TOG) 6-2, 6-3.

EXPRESS READ

Real Kashmir extend home streak

NEW DELHI: Real Kashmir FC extended their unbeaten home streak with a commanding 2-0 win over Shillong Lajong FC in Srinagar, while Namdhari FC returned to the top of the I-League standings with a clinical 2-0 victory over Delhi FC in the I-League on Sunday.

Rajeshwaran beats Jessica

MUMBAI: Maaya Rajeshwaran staged a remarkable comeback to defeat Jessica Failla 7-6, 1-6, 6-4 while second seed Petra Marcinko's unexpected retirement made headlines as the qualifying draw at the L&T Mumbai Open WTA 125 Series concluded here on Sunday.

Jamshedpur move to 2nd spot

CHENNAI: Javier Siverio scored a double (37', 68') as Jamshedpur FC posted a 3-1 win over FC Goa in the Indian Super League in Jamshedpur on Sunday. With this win, Jamshedpur moved to second spot, a position that was occupied by Goa before the meeting between the two teams.

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Arsenal thrash Man City 5-1

AGENCIES @ London

ARSENAL thrashed Manchester City 5-1 on Sunday to cut Liverpool's lead at the top of the Premier League to six points.

Martin Odegaard, Thomas Partey, Myles Lewis-Skelly, Kai Havertz and Ethan Nwaneri were on target for the Gunners, who avenged missing out on the title to City in each of the past two seasons.

In the earlier matches of the day, Manchester United slumped to another meek home defeat as Crystal Palace won 2-0 at Old Trafford while Tottenham eased the pressure on Ange Postecoglou by beating Brentford 2-0. Jean Philippe-Mateta was Palace's hero with both goals in the second half as United suffered a fifth defeat in their last six home league games. Victory takes the Eagles above the Red Devils in the table as Oliver Glasner's side climb to 12th. Three consecutive wins for United had lifted the mood around Old Trafford but it was back to square one for Ruben Amorim after another home display lacking in creativity and riddled with defensive lapses.\

Arsenal's Martin Odegaard (L) celebrates with teammates | AFP

Results: Brentford **0-2** Tottenham; Man United **0-2** Crystal Palace; Arsenal **5-1** Man City.

Lewandowski lifts Barca

BARCELONA: Robert Lewandowski's second-half strike helped Barcelona beat Alaves 1-0 on Sunday to cut the gap on La Liga leaders Real Madrid down to four points. The Catalans capitalised with a narrow victory after Real slipped up across town at Espanyol on Saturday.

Chennai Open: Chirag, Manish win

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

INDIA'S Chirag Duhan, Siddharth Vishwakarma and Manish Sureshkumar knocked out seeded players in the first round of qualifying at the Chennai Open ATP Challenger at the SDAT Tennis Stadium in Chennai on Sunday.

Duhan, aged 21 and ranked No 962 in the world, upset third seed Evgenii Tiurnev, ranked more than 600 spots higher than the Indian, in straight sets (6-4, 6-2) while 30-year-old Vishwakarma, ranked No 771 in the world, defeated the eighth seed Dominik Palan 6-3, 6-1.

Manish Sureshkumar added to the joy for the Indian tennis fraternity by knocking out the 12th seed Luca Castelnuovo 7-6, 6-4. In an all-Indian clash, 10th seed Dev Javia beat Keerthivasan Suresh 6-4, 6-2 to book his spot in the second and final round of qualifying. India's Sidharth Rawat fought valiantly as he came from a set and 5-2 down against fifth seed Eric Vanshelboim to force a decider before losing 6-4, 5-7, 6-3.

Manish Sureshkumar in action against Luca Castelnuovo | P JAWAHAR

Top seed Sascha Gueymard Wayenburg and second seed Kimmer Coppejans were among those who advanced to the second and final round of qualifying. The final round of the qualifying draw will take place on Monday along with some of the main draw matches.

Super Giants end campaign on high

AGENCIES @ Johannesburg

DURBAN'S Super Giants ended their SA20 campaign on a positive note with a thrilling 11-run DLS victory over Joburg Super Kings at the Wanderers. As a result, JSK finished fourth in the standings and will face third-placed Sunrisers Eastern Cape in the Eliminator at Centurion on Wednesday.

DSG's Heinrich Klaasen finally gave the visiting fans something to cheer about with an unbeaten 76 off 47 balls. In the process, Klaasen became the first batter to pass 1000 runs in Betway SA20. He shared two solid partnerships of 64 off 43 balls with Kane Williamson (22) and an unbroken 70 off 43 with Wiaan Mulder (30 not out).

IIT LIFE

LIVING THE DREAM

From the rigour of JEE preparation to the vibrant life on campus, IIT students open up about their transformative experiences, and the lessons learned along the way. Saumyangi Yadav listens in

EVERY year, lakhs of students across India chase the IIT dream, a goal that only a select few manage to turn into reality.

As a new batch of aspirants embarks on this path, it's essential to understand the experiences that lie ahead. Here, students from Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) of various campuses share their personal stories — from the tough days of Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) preparation and beyond.

Prakhar Agarwal
Student, IIT BHU

MY experience at IIT BHU, Varanasi, has been transformative and enriching in every sense. Joining the institute in 2022 marked the beginning of a journey that changed my life.

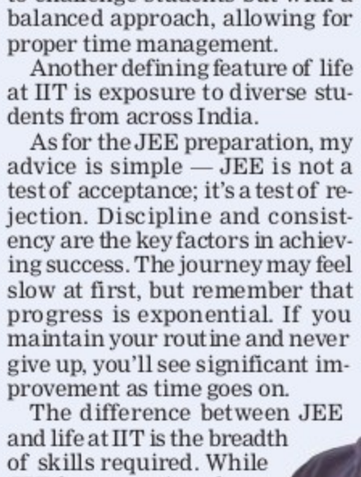
The academic workload at IIT is balanced yet rigorous, depending on your chosen branch. Beyond academics, IITs provide unparalleled facilities — be it sprawling campuses, state-of-the-art sports amenities, or a vibrant culture of cells, clubs, and councils.

Extracurricular activities are integral to life here. From the Student Alumni Interaction Cell and Entrepreneurship Cell to councils dedicated to sports, culture, and media, IIT offers countless opportunities to pursue passions beyond academics.

Studying at IIT has significantly shaped my career goals. The institute encourages students to venture beyond conventional paths and explore diverse fields.

Reflecting on my JEE preparation journey, I believe consistency was key. I relied on a mix of coaching classes and self-study, joining Allen in Indore for structured guidance. For anyone starting their JEE preparation, I recommend focusing on fundamentals, staying consistent, and leveraging resources — whether online or offline — effectively.

Life at IIT is both challenging and rewarding. Initially, the intense competition and demanding workload felt overwhelming. Managing time, relationships, and personal expectations while living away from home was a steep learning curve.



Yash Gaur
Student, IIT Delhi

STUDYING at IIT offers much more than just academic learning. While the workload is significant, it isn't solely academic — the balance between studies and extracurricular activities shapes the authentic IIT experience. The institute isn't just a place for learning technical skills; it's a hub for overall personality development.

At IIT Delhi, the professors are understanding and focus on academics and ensuring that students grow in all aspects. The curriculum is designed to challenge students but with a balanced approach, allowing for proper time management.

Another defining feature of life at IIT is exposure to diverse students from across India.

As for the JEE preparation, my advice is simple — JEE is not a test of acceptance; it's a test of rejection. Discipline and consistency are the key factors in achieving success. The journey may feel slow at first, but remember that progress is exponential. If you maintain your routine and never give up, you'll see significant improvement as time goes on.

The difference between JEE and life at IIT is the breadth of skills required. While JEE focuses on just three subjects, IIT demands proficiency in a wide range of skills, including public speaking, coding, and social knowledge.

VOX pop

Ultimately, IIT is more than just an academic institution — it's a place that moulds you into a well-rounded individual. It equips you with the skills, confidence, and perspective to navigate life's challenges while fostering personal growth. Speaking for myself, the difficulties I faced pushed me out of my comfort zone, teaching resilience, adaptability, and self-reliance — Prakhar Agarwal, Student, IIT BHU

Aryan Kubal
Student, IIT Kharagpur

IF I had to describe my experience at IIT Kharagpur in one word, it would be 'wholesome'.

My JEE days were intense, and so are my days at IIT, but the difference lies in the fact that JEE is all about grinding non-stop, while IIT has allowed me to taste the fruits of that effort.

IIT Kharagpur provides world-class facilities and resources, whether you want to dive into tech, explore photography, run marathons, or even try culinary arts. The opportunities for holistic development are endless, and I've participated in various activities that have shaped my personality, both academically and outside of it.

For those just starting their JEE journey, my advice is: don't be overwhelmed by your peers, move at your own pace. Yes, hard work and long study hours are non-negotiable, though one must remember that JEE is important, but it's not the only thing that matters.

During my preparation, I found a mix of coaching classes and self-study to be most effective. However, the majority of my success can be attributed to self-study.

When I first imagined life at IIT, I thought it would be all about academics. But in reality, life here is more than just about studying; it's about meeting new people, experiencing the largest IIT campus, getting involved in activities, and more.

Ankit Kumar Rachhoya, Graduate, IIT Roorkee

THE first year of my engineering journey at IIT Roorkee was manageable. The workload was fairly moderate, and the courses were mostly general subjects like mathematics and English. Things started to pick up pace by the second and third year, when the workload increased significantly.

When it came to teaching, I realised that professors at IIT were incredibly knowledgeable. IIT professors are more like researchers than teachers, so the onus was on us to figure things out and learn independently. This contrast struck me especially hard since I was used to a more structured and spoon-fed learning environment in school and coaching.

The decision to join IIT was not an easy one for me. I took a year off after school to prepare for JEE and attended coaching during that time. The first year I joined IIT was challenging in terms of both academic pressure and adjustment to an entirely new environment. I came from a small town and didn't have the kind of exposure many of my peers had. But I managed to adapt and push through. I would say that coaching is almost a must. It helps maintain discipline.

Rahul Kumar Mahamalla, Student, IIT Madras

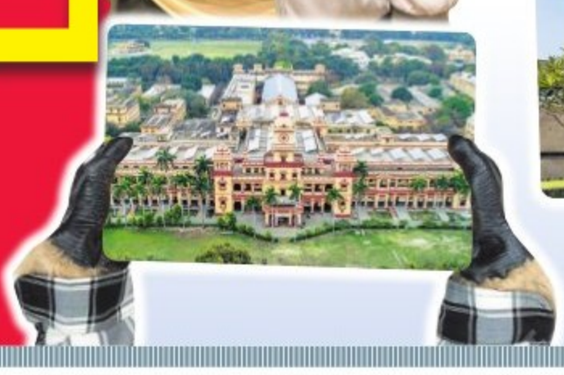
WHEN I first arrived at IIT Madras, it felt like a dream come true. Everything around me was new — the hostel, the environment, and the campus itself.

The real challenge began once the classes started. In the first few days, it felt like everything was different. Even after the intense JEE preparation, I struggled to keep up with the class material. The format was different. We had to write long answers and paragraphs, especially in subjects like chemistry, which was completely new to me. This shift in learning style took me a whole semester to understand.

Physics and math at IIT were a level higher than what we encountered in JEE, making it even harder to balance academic life. During the first semester, I faced difficulties. The professors expected us to be aware of topics in advance, and adjusting to their teaching style took time.

From the second semester, I also started getting involved in various campus events and clubs, which gave me the much-needed break from the academic pressure.

During my JEE preparation, I thought that once I entered IIT, my life would be set. But once I got here, I realised that JEE was just the beginning. An IIT life demands even more hard work and dedication. There was always something to learn, and I had to push myself to keep up. However, I also learned the importance of balance.



Former JEE aspirants weigh in on the pros and cons of taking a drop year. Varsha Sagi reports

THE DROP YEAR DILEMMA

THE journey toward cracking the IIT-JEE is nothing short of an odyssey. For many, this daunting exam poses an existential question: Is taking a drop year the path to success, or is it a gamble that should be avoided? To unravel this, we spoke to two former JEE aspirants — Pithani Kasi Manikanteswara Rao, a drop-year student, and Richie Moses Ilavarapu, who cleared the exam without taking any drops. Here's what they had to say about the pros, cons, and intricacies of the drop-year decision.

the wait

● The wiser route: To drop or not to drop?

For Kasi, the choice to take a drop year was more of a circumstantial decision than a calculated one. "After my Class XII, I lacked awareness about the counselling process and how to apply to universities. Out of confusion, I only applied to top National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and specific branches, and since I didn't get into a college of my choice, I opted for a drop year," he recalls. However, in hindsight, he advises against it. "If you can manage your preparation well during your first attempt, that's the wiser choice," he insists.

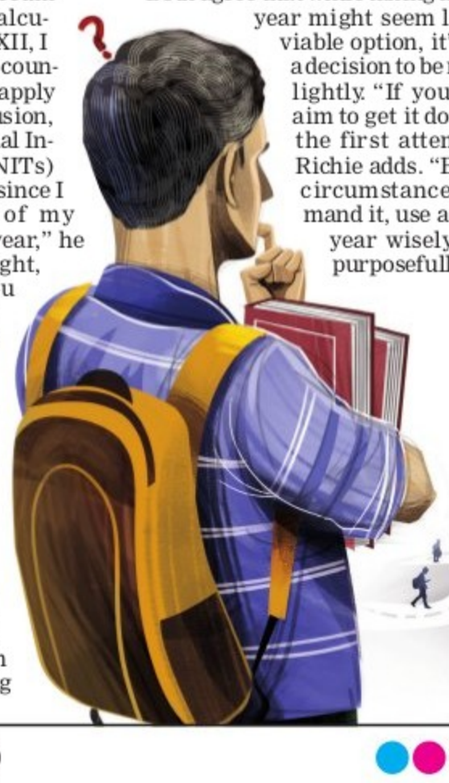
On the other hand, Richie believes the decision to take a drop depends entirely on the individual. "If you can finish your syllabus and prepare during your Class XI and XII, it's better to aim for success in the first attempt. But if you're keen on joining a prestigious institution and didn't score well, taking a drop might be worth it," he notes.

● Advice for future aspirants

When asked to share advice for current JEE aspirants, Kasi emphasised the importance of research. "After finishing class XI, start researching colleges. Understand what percentile is needed for different institutions and branches. This clarity will help you target your efforts better," he explains.

Richie, meanwhile, stresses the significance of preparation. "Try to work hard and crack the exam on your first attempt. If not, don't be disheartened. Take a drop year, prepare diligently, and give it your best shot," he advises.

Both agree that while taking a drop year might seem like a viable option, it's not a decision to be made lightly. "If you can, aim to get it done in the first attempt," Richie adds. "But if circumstances demand it, use a drop year wisely and purposefully."



HOW MANY DROPS ARE TOO MANY?

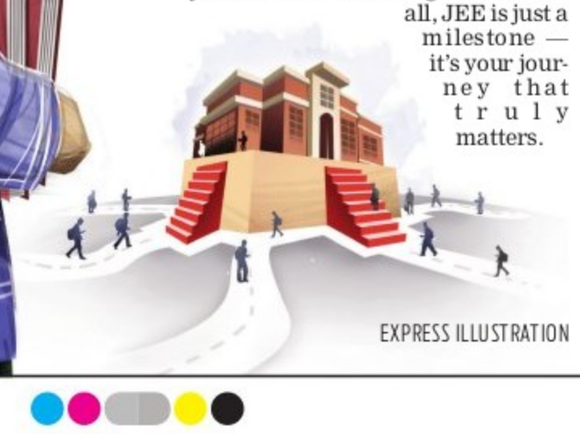
Both aspirants agree on one point: The number of drop years one takes should be limited. Kasi suggests, "If you're determined to get into an IIT, one drop year is fine — at most, two. But one is the max I would recommend." Richie echoes this sentiment, citing his observations of peers. "Most people take only one drop year. Maybe two at most. Beyond that, it's better to move on," he advises, noting that the JEE's age limit also plays a role in curbing endless attempts.

● Final thoughts: Is the gamble worth it?

The decision to take a drop year for JEE preparation is deeply personal and varies based on individual circumstances. While it can be a second chance for some, it's not without its challenges. As Kasi reflects on his own experience, "A drop year should only be considered when absolutely necessary, and even then, it's better to limit it to one."

Richie's parting words sum it up: "The key is to work hard, stay focused, and make informed decisions. Whether it's your first attempt or a drop year, success comes from dedication and planning."

So, if you're at the crossroads of deciding whether to drop or not, evaluate your priorities, research thoroughly, and, most importantly, trust yourself to make the right call. After all, JEE is just a milestone — it's your journey that truly matters.



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

If a student hasn't got into any IITs, but has got into the top National Institutes of Technology (NIT), a drop year is truly not required

MN Rao, JEE coach

Feeling the pressure?

Drop year students sometimes feel the pressure a lot more than others and might feel excluded too — don't let all of this get to you!

Busting IIT-JEE Myths: Fact or Fiction?

Behind every great exam strategy is a dose of reality. Let's expose the myths holding you back and pave the way for smarter prep!

THE Indian Institute of Technology — Joint Entrance Examination (IIT JEE) isn't just an exam — it's a dream, a challenge, and, for many, a life-changing opportunity. But the journey to cracking it is full of myths that can throw you off track. To get a broader view, we delved into the perspectives of both a student and an expert. Subhash Kandipalli, a former JEE aspirant with firsthand experience with the exam, shares his journey. At the same time, MN Rao, a seasoned JEE coach, provides insights from years of mentoring students, helping us to bust common myths and offer a balanced understanding. So, let's clear the fog, shall we?

Myth	What the student says	What the expert says
Only geniuses crack IIT-JEE	This is false. It's about hard work and dedication. I've seen people crack IIT without early coaching, while some with coaching didn't make it. Commitment matters more than IQ.	IQ is helpful, but consistency and focus matter more. Students preparing diligently from Class IX or even later can crack IIT-JEE with the right approach.
More books equal better scores	It's not about quantity but quality. Books like HC Verma are concise and aligned with the JEE pattern. It's better to focus on one good book than skim through many.	Stick to your college material and add one or two extra resources. It's not the number of books but thorough preparation that makes the difference.
Board prep = JEE prep	Board exams provide the foundation, especially for Main exam, but JEE Advanced requires more. You will surely need extra practice for its complex and tricky problems.	Board prep covers concepts, but JEE prep — especially Advanced — requires deeper problem-solving. Boards and Main may overlap, but Advanced needs a different strategy.
Goodbye social life, hello IIT?	I did lose my social life during preparation, but it's not because of difficulty. The competition demands focus and prioritising studies for two years.	A complete goodbye isn't necessary. One to two hours daily for relaxation is fine, but students must dedicate the rest of their time to focused study.
More study hours = more success	This depends on the individual. Some can grasp concepts quickly by dedicating fewer hours, while beginners, naturally, might need more time to acclimatise themselves.	Study hours are important, but students must also seek guidance when stuck. Self-study is crucial, but the right help can make problem-solving quicker and more effective.
Acing Main guarantees advanced success	Not true. Advanced is much tougher. I've seen people score 95% in Main but struggle in Advanced. Picking the right questions and managing time is critical.	Success in Main shows foundational knowledge, but Advanced is a different challenge. Advanced preparation requires deeper problem-solving and strategic focus.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

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MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Breaking barriers

Eileen Collins became the first woman to pilot a US space shuttle in 1995 and later made history as the first female commander in 1999

EARLY AMBITIONS

Born in New York, in 1956, Eileen saved money from part-time jobs to take flying lessons at 19. Seeing the first women astronauts at her Air Force base inspired her

A MOMENT OF RELIEF

When Eileen received the call confirming she would fly a space shuttle, she didn't celebrate. She knew she was achieving what thousands of women wanted

LEGACY

After retiring from NASA in 2006, Eileen continued to inspire as a speaker and consultant. Her story is documented in *Spacewoman*

CE's guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

When Chai Met Toast, a multilingual indie-folk alternative band from Kerala, recently performed at India Cocktail Week in the city on Saturday. *CE* speaks with the band about the show and B'luru being their second home

A TOAST TO THE CITY

ANJALI RAM

FOR Bengalureans, When Chai Met Toast is more than a household name. Known for their upbeat indie-folk music, the band has been closely tied to the vibrant music scene of the city for almost a decade. As Bengaluru played host to India Cocktail Week (ICW) this weekend, the band celebrated it along with fresh music and exciting energy on stage.

Hailing from Kerala, When Chai Met Toast calls Bengaluru their 'second home'. "Bengaluru is like our second home, it was here where we grew up as a band playing our first shows," says Achyuth Jaigopal, the guitarist of the band.

With songs like *Khoj*, *Yellow Paper Daisy* and *Fireflies* having a huge fanbase in Bengaluru, Jaigopal recounts how the Bengaluru audience has been receptive to the band's music from the beginning. "Bengaluru is definitely our biggest base...I think the audience has just grown with us. We've always gotten the biggest crowds in Bangalore. It's always been the most supportive audience for our music. And it's been a while since we did a public show in Bengaluru. So, we were quite excited, actually, for ICW, " he says, expressing his happiness in coming back to the city to perform.

The members of the band When Chai Met Toast

Achyuth Jaigopal

The band's connection with the Indian Cocktail Week goes way back – having performed at various editions across the country. "We have done ICW in different cities, including Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Pune this year; it's a very nice vibe, a really good set of people coming to the shows and some good cocktails," Jaigopal adds.

Interestingly, what set this show apart from their previous concerts was a surprise performance of an unreleased song, performed only once before. Speaking to *CE* prior to the show, Ashwin Gopakumar, the lead vocalist, notes. "This is the second time we're going to be featuring a new song from the new album, which has not been released. We've performed it once and that was back in the day in Bangalore, before *Firefly*. After that, we've never done it. The song name is not confirmed yet," says Gopakumar.

Closely tied to their lives, the band also resonates with the city for being a cornerstone in their personal life. "One major thing about the city is that it gives us a lot of love every time we come. And we want to give it back to them in multiple folds. And that's something that we'd love to do," says Gopakumar.

Meanwhile, Jaigopal reflects on how, for Gopakumar and Keyboardist Palee Francis, Bengaluru has played a profound role in them finding their muses – making the city extra special. "We have found our muses and we've actually lived through our love story here. So, it's a part of our journey," adds Gopakumar.

As the much-anticipated cocktail weekend arrived, the band was stirred up to serve the love they have been receiving from the audience back to them through their refreshing live music and relatable vibes. Sharing their routine, Jaigopal also recounts how, before geting on stage, the band does a group hug, sharing positivity and warmth to add to their on-stage energy.

"We all hug together, we give each other some positive energy. Apart from that, Pai has this warm-up routine before getting on stage. And we have our crew backing us – we have Hemant, who is our stage tech, and Guru and Ashwin Shetty on lights and sound respectively. So, as long as our team is there, we know that we are in safe hands. And we don't have to worry much," Jaigopal adds.

Ashwin Gopakumar

One major thing about the city is that it gives us a lot of love every time we come. And we want to give it back to them in multiple folds. — Ashwin Gopakumar, lead vocalist

PICS: SOORYAKIRAN KP

An upcycled pantsuit from Zaitra

Several Bengaluru boutiques and brands are upcycling old sarees into stunning statement pieces. Be it a pair of pants, a jacket or even a trendy corset, this fashion trend is making tradition cool and sustainable

Saree Not Sorry

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

INDIAN mothers and grandmothers have always taken their fading, fraying sarees and turned them into shirts, dresses, skirts, for their kids or as a last resort, even into dishcloths, in an attempt to get the most use from every item of clothing. Once seen as a sign of frugality and something to be done out of necessity, this long-standing practice is now being openly embraced by fashion enthusiasts as something cool, trendy, sustainable, and a unique way to celebrate one's roots. "In the last few years, it's gone from mostly mothers and grandmothers doing it to becoming more professional with boutiques coming up. With increasing discussion around sustainability, people are also not hiding it, they are upfront and okay to wear it. It is not a mark of you not having anything but of valuing something that you already possess," says Leema Bernard Viji, an image consultant and founder of Dotting i, a personal transformation company.

Several boutiques and brands based in India and abroad specifically focussed on using the distinctive and rich material of the saree to make stylish, western-style pieces, have emerged in the last few years with celebrities like Priyanka Chopra, Maitreyi Ramakrishnan, Taapsee Pannu and many more flaunting them at events. Some brands and boutiques in Bengaluru too, are embracing this trend. Explaining the growing popularity of upcycled saree clothes, especially on social media, 26-year-old Aishwarya Menon, co-founder of Sakhe, a popular brand on Instagram, says, "With the advancement of social media and influencer culture, it has led people to own pretty much the same pieces from fast-fashion brands. But when it's an upcycled piece, that's impossible – you can't own the exact same piece. I think it's that notion of uniqueness which is lost in today's world that's driving this trend." With mainly Gen Z customers, the brand sells crop tops, flowy boho tops, tote bags, corsets and more. "I think it's the corsets, which have really clicked with people because we use silk sarees, especially the pallu part of the saree that is very unique – It's not possible to get pieces of the same design," adds Menon.

A saree-corset from Sakhe

While Gen Z goes for trendy ready-to-wear upcycled pieces, millennials in their 30s and early 40s are getting versatile pieces custom-made by designers like Khushboo Tyagi, founder of the brand Zaitra. "Most people are looking for jackets, suits, and pants – versatile pieces which they can use in different ways and for occasions like festivals, parties, weddings, office events and even formal events where they have to address big gatherings," says Tyagi. Diya Lal, a Delhi-based HR professional who frequents Bengaluru for work, has had her mother's and grandmother's beloved sarees refashioned into outfits for herself and her daughter, Meher. "I had three very different sarees made into unique pieces – I got a stunning lehenga made from my mother's pink saree for my daughter with a beautiful bralette and jacket. I took my mother's traditional cream and gold saree and transformed it into a jacket and pants for myself, and my grandmother's saree into a pantsuit. Each of these pieces holds a sentimental value and tells a story...They can be dressed up or down to suit many occasions and I've received countless compliments and enquiries" she says.

Actor Maitreyi Ramakrishnan in an upcycled saree outfit

CITY READ

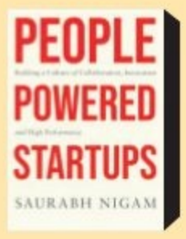
Musical competition pays homage to late actor Puneeth Rajkumar

The grand finale of Gopalan Super Singer Season 5, a prestigious musical competition organised by Gopalan Enterprises – known for scouting musical talent from across the country, paid a heartfelt tribute to the late actor Puneeth Rajkumar on January 27. The event witnessed the release of the Puneeth Rajkumar Anthem, *Neene Neene Rajakumara*, in the presence of his wife Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar. The competition also showcased finalists singing the late actor's beloved hits, as well as songs from non-Kannada singers, making it a heartfelt tribute.

Hotel management institute organises student chef competition

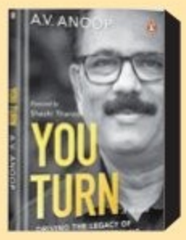
The 11th Young Chef Olympiad (YCO), organised by the International Institute of Hotel Management in collaboration with the International Hospitality Council, will travel to Bengaluru on February 4. This one-week-long culinary fest will witness competitors from 50 countries and will be judged by renowned chefs including Padma Shri Chef Sanjeev Kapoor. The city will also witness a World Cuisine display put on by the 10 participating countries alongside the Karnataka Food Festival – organised by IIHM Bangalore.

BOOK NOOK



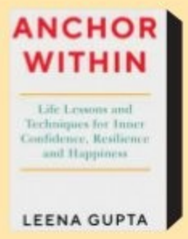
People Powered Startups
By Saurabh Nigam

The book navigates the challenges of the start-up world by mastering the art of people management, from attracting top talent to fostering a thriving workplace culture.



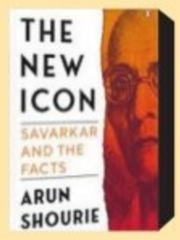
You Turn
By AV Anoop

This book is a riveting story that offers guidance, anecdotes, valuable lessons, and reflections on AV Anoop's entrepreneurial journey and a rare glimpse into the making of the brand, Medimix.



Anchor Within
By Leena Gupta

The book provides a step-by-step guide and incorporates the author's 3P approach: Philosophy, Psychology, and Practicality which blends ancient wisdom, modern psychology, and practical tools and techniques, to help readers imbibe and implement the lessons into their daily lives.



The New Icon
By Arun Shourie

Drawing on over 550 sources, Arun Shourie delves deep into Savarkar's books, essays, speeches, and statements to answer some of the most profound questions on India's most significant figures.

WORLDS COLLIDE

Artistes perform the play *Yuge Yuge* in which characters from the Ramayana and Mahabharatha converse with one another | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

FITBIT

PARIVRTTA SUKHASANA
(REVOLVED EASY POSE)

This is a gentle twisting variation of Sukhasana, a grounding practice that opens the back and chest with support from the psoas muscles. The strengthening of the spine, combined with the grounding action of the sit bones, ensures energy flow from the base of the spine to the crown.

STEPS

- Sit comfortably on a cushion or the floor in a cross-legged position (Sukhasana), rolling the shoulders back, opening the chest, and resting your palms on your knees.
- Relax your facial muscles and take a few deep breaths, allowing the body to settle. Maintain a straight back, aligning the head over the heart and the heart over the pelvis.
- Inhale and begin twisting to the right. Engage your core, place your left palm on your right knee, and swing your right arm back, resting your fingertips or palm on the floor behind you with fingers pointing outward.
- Exhale, twisting your torso and neck further to the right to look back. With each exhale, lengthen your spine and deepen the twist, feeling a 'squeeze and soak' action in your lower abdomen.
- Hold the twist for five deep breaths, imagining your spine as the axis of the movement.
- To release, inhale and bring your head back to the center. Exhale and return your upper body to the starting position.
- Repeat on the left side, following the same steps.
- Finally, relax in Sukhasana Variation Arms Knees.

BENEFITS

- Stretches and strengthens the hips, knees, spine, shoulders, and chest.
- Enhances mobility in the spine, shoulders, and neck.
- Strengthens the shoulder blades, side abdominal muscles, and lower back.
- Prepares the body for Thread the Needle Pose Flow.
- Improves posture and spinal alignment.
- Reduces tightness in the neck and shoulders.
- Tones the spine and counteracts hunching.
- Supports deep breathing and enhances lung capacity.
- Beneficial for asthma and allergies.
- Activates the parasympathetic nervous system, promoting relaxation.
- Boosts energy and sends positive signals to the brain.
- Stimulates the Muladhara Chakra, aiding energy flow.
- Aids digestion and detoxification by massaging abdominal organs.
- Helps pregnant women relieve back pain or heaviness.
- Can be practised as a warm-up for pranayama or meditation.
- Those unable to sit on the floor can practise this pose while seated on a chair.

LIMITATIONS

- Avoid this practice if you have injuries to the hips, neck, shoulders, spine, lower back, knees, pelvic floor muscles, or any abdominal injury. Those with severe conditions like high blood pressure, heart ailments, digestive issues, or neck spondylitis should also refrain. Individuals recovering from diastasis recti or experiencing tension, aches, or pain should proceed with caution. Seniors or those with weak knees or tight hips can modify the pose by practising it while seated on a chair.

By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

ASK AN XPERT

DR VIVEK ARORA
drvivekarora@hotmail.com
The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi.

I have started going for mid-morning walks. By the fourth round in the park, my dog, a 7 year-old, starts panting. Is she being a drama queen so that I stop the walk and return home or should I get her lungs checked?

Panting is a normal way for dogs to cool down or express excitement, but excessive panting could signal issues like overheating, anxiety, or a health concern. Given your dog's age, it's important to pay attention to her panting during walks. If it becomes excessive, she seems distressed, or it's accompanied by other symptoms, it's best to consult a vet. Factors such as temperature, her fitness level, or potential heart or lung problems could be contributing to her panting. If this persists, a vet check-up will help ensure her health is in good shape and that her exercise routine is safe.

QUICKFIX

PUMPKIN PASTA

INGREDIENTS

- **Pasta:** 2 cups
- **Pumpkin purée:** 2 cups
- **Coconut mylk (thick):** 1 cup
- **Onion, tomato:** 1 each, chopped
- **Garlic :** 6 cloves, minced
- **Mixed Italian herbs :** 1 tbsp
- **Parsley leaves :** a handful, chopped
- **Cayenne pepper powder :** 1/4 tsp
- **Pepper:** As required
- **Salt:** To taste
- **Olive oil:** As required
- **Red chilli flakes:** For garnishing

METHOD

- Add pasta along with salt into a pot of boiling water. Cook until al dante.
- Heat olive oil in a pan over medium heat. Add chopped onion and sauté until translucent.
- Add minced garlic and sauté for a minute. Add chopped tomato and stir in fresh parsley, cayenne pepper, salt, and black pepper. Sauté for a minute.
- Add the pumpkin purée to the mixture. Stir well and cook for about 5 minutes. Add 1-2 tablespoons of hot water if it dries.
- Pour coconut milk, adjust the flame to medium and stir to combine.
- Add the cooked pasta to the sauce. Can also grate in cheese.

Contributed by **Priya Harikumar,** Thiruvananthapuram

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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@xpress_bengaluru

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Earthy Elegance

Make use of your creativity in this online and offline workshop while making terracotta jewellery. Transform natural clay into wearable ornaments.

WHEN: February 3, 11am
WHERE: RK Colony, JP Nagar
CALL: 89044 49260

Cue Chaos

Kanthu, a story authored by writer Vivek Shanbhag that revolves around human complexities and nature is set to arrive in the city in the form of a play. Laugh out loud with your family at this comedy play.

WHEN: February 4, 7.30pm **WHERE:** Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

FIRE & FLOW

Immerse yourself in the world of tango and test your skills of balance and poise in this beginner friendly dance workshop.

WHEN: February 3, 7pm
WHERE: Lourd Vijay's Dance Studio (LVDS), Vasanth Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Missing Piece

Take a break from the screen and participate in an evening of putting together jigsaw puzzles with friends or family.

WHEN: February 3, 6pm
WHERE: Underline Center, Domlur
DETAILS: allevents.in

Harmony Night

Delve into the world of western classical music and listen to composers Mozart, Fauré, Ravel and more in this showcase consisting of a piano and a violin duo.

WHEN: February 4, 7pm
WHERE: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur **DETAILS:** bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Hoop Dreams

Get into the world of fitness without abandoning fun at this basketball event that puts your stamina to the test.

WHEN: February 3 onwards, 8am
WHERE: MN Krishna Rao Park Basketball Court, Jayanagar
DETAILS: allevents.in

Mind Over Later

Beat your tendencies to procrastinate with this health and wellness workshop that makes use of energy healing techniques and powerful mental models to help you stay focussed.

WHEN: February 3, 9am **WHERE:** Creative Studio, Shanti Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

ARTCORNER

INTO THE WILD

Printmaker Devraj Dakoji uses stylised naturalism to portray a deep connection to wildlife in this screen-printed work

Ayaz SF and Frances Mascarenas Malhotra

From left: Tejal Khanna , Ashim Sayal and Nikhil Agarwal

ACTIONS AND REACTIONS

RUBINATIONS
Rubi Chakravarti

Writer, actor and funny girl

I SEEM to have brought some of the circa 2024's, bad juju with me into the New Year! I have been plagued by a series of accidents which have nearly left me immobile! I decided that instead of becoming a permanent part of my home furnishings, it would be way more prudent to be with the family in Mumbai. But then again, I had a nasty bruise on my face and my bones creaked every step of the way. To cut a long story short, I managed to get to the maximum city, but for most of my trip there, I sat glued to the furniture as moving around was literally and figuratively 'a pain in the derriere'! Of course, a dinner here and there coupled with an American Whiskey tasting by my friend Nikhil Agarwal from All Things Nice and The Distilled-Spirits Council of the United States, at Mumbai's Four Seasons Hotel prompted some movement from me. As my son wryly remarked, "Mom will be whining and groaning till she sees the next brand outlet where she can shop at!"

Well, I travelled back home alone and what I needed to say needs to be said! There are still large conglomerates of people, totally unconnected to you, who are kind, considerate and helpful. My 'dearly-beloved' unceremoniously dumped me at the airport, diffidently asking me to 'take care', and hurried off, while strangers saw me struggling, and stepped forward to help. I was plonked on a wheel-chair and wheeled across the vast expanse of Mumbai's airport where I was accorded the same courtesy and consideration in the aircraft. And when I de-boarded in namma-ooru, my friend George Kuruvilla, CEO of BIAL, got wind of my arrival and pulled out all the stops to ensure I was not inconvenienced in any way. There was a mini-coterie of placard-wielding people waiting for me as I de-boarded. They were solicitous, caring and efficient. Seeing that I was truly in need of assistance, they made sure my bags were picked up and I was duly escorted to my (very impressed) driver and car! I have travelled all over the world and I keep saying this to all the 'India-bashers' – mera desh mahaan!

Time spent in Mumbai was bitter-sweet. When one is physically incapacitated then one is painfully aware of how busy everyone is. It was great spending time with my munchkin who can talk even her formidable 'glamma' under the table. She too has a packed schedule and battling for her time in between her myriad of friends, parents and nanny was fun...sort of! Nikhil Agarwal who was just back after a raucous event in Bengaluru was ready to take on Mumbai. It was fun rubbing shoulders and networking with the who's who of Mumbai while Nikhil put us through our paces with a selection of whiskies, showcasing their moot points. A large family dinner with relatives from the US and Dubai at the very upmarket Soho House in Juhu was eventful. Loud opinions and louder disagreements with a general collapse into laughter marked a very special evening. It was my husband's birthday so it was great having everyone around, eating, drinking and making merry. I have stepped into this year, no different than the last year. But I have understood that it is our own expectations that hurt, not others' actions.

(The writer's views are personal)

NUGGETS

Hotel to organise romantic dinner for Valentine's Day

Hilton Bangalore Embassy Golflinks will be organising a romantic dinner for couples to celebrate Valentine's Day. The dinner will be in a private setting with live music and handcrafted love letters by writer Ruby Naaz for the guests' partners, encapsulating their stories. Guests can expect romantic dates by the pool, under the open sky, in private cabanas or at tables set just for them, with romantic live music and lavish meals.

Restaurant curates festive menu

Kampot, a restaurant popular for its Vietnamese, Cambodian and Korean cuisine, has curated a special menu to celebrate the Lunar New Year festival, Tet - one of the biggest festivals in Vietnam. Available until February 15 from 12pm to 12am - the menu features popular delicacies like dumplings, sweet sticky rice cakes, caramelised pork, banh mih, and banh bao to honour the festival. To avail of this menu, visit the Bellandur or the Haralur branch of the restaurant. For reservations contact 96060 25115.

OLD CHARM, NEW CHARGE

LEKSHMI C PILLAI

WITH a multitude of electric vehicle (EV) models unveiled at the Bharat Mobility Expo 2025, it's evident that India is on the brink of an EV revolution. So far, brands like Tata Motors, Mahindra, MG Motor India, and BYD have dominated the EV landscape, while automotive giants like Maruti Suzuki and Hyundai have been notably absent from the mass EV market. However, this is about to change. Now, Hyundai has unveiled the electric version of its mid-size SUV king, the Creta, and Maruti Suzuki is set to to launch the e-Vitara.

Last week, I checked out the Creta Electric in Chennai, ahead of its official debut at the auto expo 2025. Here are my first impressions.

DNA intact

Hyundai has preserved everything that makes the Creta a beloved mid-size SUV – its shape, size, cabin, and performance. Fans of the traditional Creta will find themselves drawn to this avatar.

Visual appeal

The Creta Electric's design exudes modernity, with subtle yet striking updates that differentiate it from its internal combustion siblings.

- **Front profile:** The traditional porous grille and air dam have been replaced with a sleek, closed grille with a pixelated pattern. The charging point is hidden behind the Hyundai logo. Air curtains on the bumper open when additional cooling is required by the powertrain.
- **Side:** The EV-specific alloy wheels, featuring an aero-inspired pattern, add a futuristic touch.
- **Rear:** Not many changes, except for the integrated reverse parking lights, minor dabs of modernity, and the 'electric' badge that declares its eco-friendly credentials.

Cabin and comfort

Enter, and the Creta Electric greets you with its signature Creta-istic charm, albeit with some significant tweaks.

- **Dashboard:** The dashboard, screens, and Bose audio system are retained from its traditional counterparts.
- **Centre console:** The absence of a traditional gearbox has freed up significant space. Hyundai has utilised this by creating a 'floating island' for the drive mode selector – an intuitive and easy to use lever mounted on the steering.
- **Seating:** Front seats are ventilated, electrically adjustable, and upholstered with eco-friendly, recycled materials. Rear seats are comfortable, offering ample legroom and headroom. The floor is slightly raised due to the battery pack, but passengers won't feel cramped. Rear passengers can even adjust the front passenger seat electrically for additional legroom.

Space and features

The 2.61m wheelbase ensures a roomy cabin. A panoramic sunroof and light-coloured upholstery brighten the interior.

Storage is abundant in the centre console and door panels. Wireless charging and multiple ports are convenient. Boot space is, generously, 431 litres, complemented by a spare tyre tucked underneath.

Battery and motor

The Creta Electric is available in two battery configurations:

- **42 kWh:** Paired with a motor delivering 99 kW (135 PS).
- **51.4 kWh:** Paired with a more powerful motor producing 126 kW (171 PS).

The variant I tested featured the 51.4 kWh battery. Using Nickel-Manganese-Cobalt (NMC) cells, the battery offers higher energy density compared to the more common Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) batteries. Manufactured at Hyundai's Chennai plant, the battery comes with a 8-year/160,000 km warranty.

On-road performance

The Creta Electric delivers a smooth and responsive driving experience.

- **Drive modes:** Three modes – Eco, Normal, and Sport – offer varying levels of performance and efficiency. Sport mode delivers acceleration but at the cost of range.
- **Regenerative braking:** There are three levels of intensity. At the highest, the car decelerates significantly when the accelerator is released, conserving energy and enhancing range.
- **Ride and handling:** Precise steering, robust braking, and a suspension system tuned for Indian roads ensure a confident drive.
- **Range:** Expect a real-world range of about 380 km under normal driving conditions – a decent figure for its target audience.

XPRESS HIGHWAY
FORTNIGHTLY SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SMITA BANDEKAR,** Aged about 38 years, W/o. Goutham Suresh Kamath, resident of Flat No.B-201, 2nd Floor, SBR Pravanika, Katamnallur Gate Flyover, Bengaluru-560049, Karnataka, India,have changed my name from **SMITA BANDEKAR** to **SMITA PRAKASH BANDEKAR**, vide affidavit dated 01-02-2025 sworn before notary S.N Madhu, Reg. No.10108, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SWATHI TARIKERE NAGARAJA SHETTY , D/o.T S Nagaraja Shetty, age about 33 years, Residing at No.151, Door No. 101, Ramya Residency, Kempegowda Double Road, BEML 3rd Stage, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Benglauru-98.do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SWATHI NAGARAJA TARIKERE TO SWATHI TARIKERE NAGARAJA SHETTY,**. vide affidavit dated 01/01/2025 sworn before advocate & Notary S.R.Thulasikrishna,Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **JAMBU KUMAR KANHAIYALAL,** S/o Kanhaiyalal Jain Pukhraj Nemichand, resident at No. 46 D and F Block Austin Town Main Road, Bengaluru-560047, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **JAMBUKUMAR JAIN** to **JAMBU KUMAR KANHAIYALAL** henceforth I shall be known and called as **JAMBU KUMAR KANHAIYALAL** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 28/01/2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary **L. SHANKARANARAYANA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
This is to declare that I, **GOWTHAMI BANDLAPALLI** W/o Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy Maki Reddy, aged about 37 years, residing at No.159 A, Bhuvanam, 5th Cross, 12th Main, Laughing Waters Villa, Varthur Main Road, Ramagondanahalli, Whitefield, Bengaluru 560066, Karnataka State, India, have changed my name to **MAKIREDDY GOWTHAMI,** vide Affidavit sworn to before Notary Public, Yankoba, Government of India, Bengaluru City, on 01st Day of February 2025. Henceforth I wish to be called and known for all acts, deeds and things as **MAKIREDDY GOWTHAMI.**

AFFIDAVIT
I, **P. SIDDEGOWDA,** S/o. K. Puttegowda, aged about 58 years, (Date of Birth : 16.08.1966) and residing at door No. 21, 8th Main Road, Near Shiva Temple Shakambarinagar, J.P. Nagar, Bangalroe-560078, do hereby declare that the both the names that is **P. SIDDEGOWDA** and **SIDDESH .P** belongs to myself only, vide affidavit date 31.01.2025, sworn to before P. Vijayakumar, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, YASWANTH RAJ JAIN (New Name), S/o. Mithalal, residing at No. 58/O, 3rd Main Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore, Karnataka, India, that I have changed my name from M YESHWANTH RAJ JAIN (Old Name) to YASWANTH RAJ JAIN (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as YASWANTH RAJ JAIN (New Name) only for all purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 30/01/2025, before Notary K VENKATESHAN, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Nimai Chand Mandi, S/o Mr. **TUNARAM MANDI, aged about 40 years, DOB: 20/10/1985 and resident of No.32/2, Boganahalli Village, Near New Horizon Vidya Mandir, Panathur Hobli, Bengaluru-560103,**
have changed my name to
NEMAI CHAND MANDI
vide affidavit dated 01-02-2025
sworn to before advocate and notary
B.M. Chandrashekar, Bangalore.

Announcement
I HALSUR GOVINDARAJAN SRIDHAR hereby declare that my name in my US PASSPORT and Overseas Citizen of India is **"SRIDHAR GOVINDARAJAN"** and in my Aadhar and Pan is **"HALSUR GOVINDARAJAN SRIDHAR"** and two different names **"HALSUR GOVINDARAJAN SRIDHAR"** and **"SRIDHAR GOVINDARAJAN"** are belongs to me only and are one and the same declared in the presence of Affidavit dated : 29-01-2025 sworn before advocate and Notary M. VENKATARAMAN, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ROHAN,** S/o Pandaba Gouda, residing at Qtr No. SMQ-320/12, Training Command, Air Force, JC Nagar Post, Hebbal, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560006, do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **ROHAN** and **ROHAN GOUDA** are one and the same persons and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **ROHAN GOUDA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 28/01/2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary **A.R. MUNEER AHMED** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VIKESH KUMAR VASTIMAL JAIN,** resident at No. 36/3 Seetarama Mandir Road, Bengaluru-560002 do hereby declare that I have changed my Minor son's name from **MAYAM** to **MAYAM JOGANI** henceforth I shall be known and called as **MAYAM JOGANI** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 10/01/2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary **MAMATHA .N.K** at Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RADHIKA MODALIYAR** (New Name) previously **K. ROOPA,** date of birth: 24/02/1981, D/o. Krishnappa Modaliyar, residing at # 23, Kadamba Kannappa Nilayam, Gadag Road, Lalabadduri Shastri Housing, Hubli, Dharwad, Karnataka -580 020. Hereby declare that, I have changed my name from **'K. ROOPA,'** to **"RADHIKA MODALIYAR"**, vide Affidavit dated 01.02.2025, Sworn before Advocate and Notary A.M. Rajasekar, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
We, **SHIVAYOGI MALIKARJUN**, S/o. of H.Y. Malikarjun, aged about 38 years, and **LAXMI VIJAYKUMAR TELI,** W/o. Shivayogi Malikarjun, aged about 30 years, both are permanent residing of No. 1-4-886/37, IDSMT Layout, Besides AIR, Raichur, Karnataka-584101 now at Bangalore, do hereby declare that we have changed our son's name from **ATHARVA** to **ATHARVA GANIGER,** vide affidavit dated 01.02.2025, sworn to before Yakoba, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
To Whom It May Concern. I hitherto known as Kannepalli Pramila Vishvanath, daughter of Capt. Kannepalli Vishvanath as of date residing at N33 Maya Indraprastha, 70 Kanakpura Road, J. P. Nagar 6th Phase, Bengaluru South, Karnataka, Pin 560078 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as K. Pramila Vishvanath.Vide affidavit dated 29.1.2025 before Notary Chandrakala B.Bangalore North Taluk

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mrs. SHWETA MEHTA W/o Sri.Sunil Mehta, Aged about 39 Years, Resident of Jaladarshan Apt, No.56, Central Street, 8th Cross, Kumarapark West, Sheshadripuram, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560020**
have changed my name from
SHWETA B VORA to SHWETA MEHTA
vide affidavit dated 31-01-2025
sworn to before advocate and notary
S.R. Ravikumar, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) SAROJ RAVINDRA BADENKAL**, residing at No. 85, First Floor, 2nd Main, 3rd Cross, Near Corporation Park, Ganganagar, R T Nagar Post Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560032, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) SAROJ RAVINDRA BADENKAL** to **(NEW NAME) SAROJA RAVINDRA BADENKAL** vide affidavit dated 01.02.2025 sworn before Notary Ramachandrappa.C, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PANDABA GOUDA**, R/at SMQ No. 320/12, Training Command, Air Force, JC Nagar Post, Hebbal, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560006, do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **ARPIT** and **ARPIT GOUDA** are one and the same persons and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **ARPIT GOUDA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 28/01/2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary **A.R. MUNEER AHMED** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mrs. SHREE KEERTHANA .S,** aged about 22 years, W/o Sri Mukesh .K, D/o Late Sri V. Thimmaraju, residing at No. 792, 1st Main, Jalgeramma Temple Street, Srinagar, Bengaluru-560050, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **BHOOMIKA .S** to **SHREE KEERTHANA .S** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SHREE KEERTHANA .S** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 01/02/2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary **H.S. DHARMA PRASAD** at Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
This is to declare that I, **SMITHA** W/o Rachit Kulshrestha, aged about 36 Years, residing at 315, ELV Signature, Nagaraj Layout, Vijayanagar, Whitefield, Bengaluru 560066, Karnataka State, India, have changed my name to **'SMITHA KULSHRESTHA'** vide Affidavit sworn to before Notary Public, Yankoba, Government of India, Bengaluru City, on 01st Day of February 2025. Henceforth I wish to be called and known for all acts, deeds and things as **'SMITHA KULSHRESTHA'.**

AFFIDAVIT
I, **CHAITHRA VENKATARAMA REDDY**, D/o. Venkatarama Reddy, Aged about 36 years, Residing at No. 58, Souparnika Block, Bhavishya Nidhi Enclave, Jalahalli, Bengaluru - 560 013, do hereby declare that, my name mentioned in Aadhar Card and PAN Card as **CHAITHRA VENKATARAMA REDDY** and in my passport mentioned as **REDDY CHAITHRA VENKATARAMAREDDY.** I further state that in future in all correspondence I will be in **CHAITHRA VENKATARAMA REDDY** Vide affidavit dated 01.02.2025 sworn to before Lakshminarayana, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

DECLARATION / CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Ms. Sumitra Iyengar**, D/o H N Anantharaman, residing at #101, Harsha Apartment, 6 B Street, 1st main Road, Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560020, do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **"Sumitra Pradeep"** and **"Sumitra Iyengar"** are one and the same and refers to me only, vide affidavit dated 31-01-2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary **B. CHITRA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, VARUNI SAVOY, W/o, Gopal Korti, Residing at, #137, Spurthi, Residency, 4th Cross, 3rd Main, Ramanjeya Nagar, Bengaluru-560061, have changed my name from **KORTI VARUNI GOPAL (Old Name)** to **VARUNI SAVOY (New Name)**, vide Affidavit dated: 28-01-2025, sworn before Advocate & Notary, Mamatha. N.K., Bangalore, for all official & future purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, MOHAMMED FATHAULLA Residing at Kadripura Near Government Kolar 563101, have changed my minor son's name from **(OLD NAME) MOHAMAD FARHAN ULLA** to **(NEW NAME) MOHAMMED FARHANULLA** vide affidavit dated 29.01.2025 sworn before Notary V.Rajashekhara, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SARANYA .S,** D/o Shiva, aged about 31 years, R/at No., 40, 3rd Main, 15th Cross, J.C. Nagar, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560086, do hereby declare that both the names belongs to my father i.e. **SHIVA** and **CHINNA THAMBI .K** are one and the same persons and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as daughter of **SHIVA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 29/01/2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **R.S. VIJAY** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **HUSAMUDDIN HAMID,** aged about 37 years, S/o Najmuddinbhai Alihusainbhai Ranapurwala, residing at Stellar Pearl Apartment, B02, 1st Floor, 5th Cross, Vinayak Nagar, JP Nagar, Bangalore, Karnataka-560078 India do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **HUSAMUDDIN HAMID** and **HUSAMUDDIN NAJMUDDINBHAI RANAPURWALA** are one and the same person and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **HUSAMUDDIN HAMID** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 30/01/2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary **D. SRINIVASA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
We, **PRASHANTH J.V.** and **AKSHATHA .D.M**, resident of Flat No. 801, Tower 8, Salarpuria Sattva Anugraha, 9th Cross, Near Summanahalli Bridge, Kaveri Nagar, Kamakshipalya, Bangalore-560079, do hereby declare that we have changed our daughter name from **AVNI J P CHOUDARY** to **AVNI P CHOUDARY,** vide affidavit dated 01.02.2025, sworn to before C.K. Anupama, Advocate & Notary Public, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, VINAY KUMAR JAIN, son of Sri. Hiralal Bothra, aged about 48 years, residing at F.No.1002, 10th Floor, Tower 2, Type B, No.13, 5th Main, Matha Sharada Devi Road, Behind BSNL Office, K.G. Nagar, Gavipuram Extension, Bangalore - 560019, I declare that below mentioned names **,"Vinay Kumar Jain," "Vinay Bothra," "Vinay Kumar Bothra Jain,"** and **"Vinay Kumar Bothra,"** which are one and the same. Hereinafter my name called as **"Vinay Kumar Jain" only.,** vide affidavit dated 1/2/2025 sworn to before B.Chitra Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **TRISHA MALLICK RAY,** Aged about 35 Years, W/o Arnab Ray, Residing at H203, Kent Block, Hamilton Homes, Gattahalli, PO: Huskur, Bangalore - 560099,
have changed my name to
TRISHA MALLICK
vide affidavit dated 01-02-2025
sworn to before advocate and notary
Deepa .M, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **LAKSHMANA REDDY**
S/o Mukkada Reddy resident No.2, Near Muthyalamma Temple, Gopasandra, Muthanallur, Bangalore, Karnataka 560099,
have changed my name to
LAKSHMAN REDDY
vide affidavit dated 01-02-2025
sworn to before advocate and notary
K.C. Shashikala, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MADHURI NARRA,** aged about 57 years, W/o. Ravindranath Rangoori, residing at: Flat No.6065, Sobha Iris, Devarabisanahalli, Bellandur Post, Bangalore 560 103.
My correct name is MADHURI NARRA, all my documents mentioned as MADHURI NARRA. but my Passport mentioned as MADHURI RANGOORI.
I have changed my name from **"MADHURI RANGOORI"** to **"MADHURI NARRA"** vide affidavit dated **01-02-2025,** sworn before **P.Nanjunda**, Advocate and Notary, at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
We, **SAGAR R.S,** S/o. Siddaraju and Ashwini.A, W/o. Sagar.R.S, residing at #8, 1st Main Road, 1st Cross, Nethaji Layout, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru 560040, have changed the name of our minor son from **PRANAV GOWDA .R.S** to **MOHITH GOWDA .R.S,** vide Affidavit Dated: 20/01/2025, sworn before Notary **M.K.DEVAKI,** Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Sri G. SURESH,** S/o Late Sri V Govindappa, aged about 34 years, residing at No. 809, 1st Cross, Vijinapura, Opp FCI Doorvaninagar, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560016 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **G. SURESH** and **G. PRAVEEN** are one and the same person and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **G. SURESH @ G. PRAVEEN** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 31/08/2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary **C. VENKATAPATHY** at Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **ANANTH CHAKRAPANI PADUBIDRI,** S/o Chakrapani Vyasacharya Padubidri, aged about 44 years, DOB: 19.09.1980, residing at No. 438, 2nd Floor, 8th Main, Vijaya Bank layout, Bangalore-560076, do hereby declare my correct name and in my **Passport** my name mentioned is as **ANANTA CHAKRAPANI PADUBIDRI** (This my name in Passport mentioned is Misspelled Name). I further declare that the above mentioned name in my passport is mentioned as wrong spelling of my name. My correct name in all my other official documents is **ANANTH CHAKRAPANI PADUBIDRI** S/o **CHAKRAPANI VYASACHARYA PADUBIDRI** (My correct full name which is mentioned in my all above mentioned document is my correct name spelling), vide affidavit dated 30.01.2025, sworn to before Jain Swarnamala, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, ARYAN DALAI S/O: SRINIVAS DALAI, Age: 28, Occupation: Private, residing at 68(2), Bhapur Dalua Sahi, Head Post Office, VTC: Brahmapur Sadar, PO: Berhampur(gm), Sub District: Brahmapur Sadar, District: Ganjam, Odisha, PIN: 760001, have changed my name from **ACHYUT DALAI** to **ARYAN DALAI,** vide affidavit dated 1/2/2025 sworn to before K.V.Mani Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ABDUL RAHMAN H,** Aged about 21 years, S/o. Hithayathullah P, residing at No. SF-302, Royal Villa No 17/6, Bethel Road, 5th Main HRBR Layout, 2nd Block Kalyanagar Bengaluru 560043
have changed my name from
ABDUL RAHMAN to ABDUL RAHMAN H.
vide affidavit dated 01-02-2025
sworn to before advocate and notary
Uday Kumar .K, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PANDIAN NARASHIMAN,** S/o. Narasimhan, Residing at No. 45/11, Sri Nilaya, 15th Main, 16th Cross, J C Nagar, Kurubarahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka -560086,
have changed my name to
PANDIYAN NARASIMHAN
vide affidavit dated: 01.02.2025
before notary ARAVIND PATIL .G.G., Bengaluru.

VIKHYATH TO BRING MEERA JASMINE BACK TO KANNADA WITH *YOURS SINCERELY RAAM*?

Meera Jasmine

Johnny Master Vikhyath

Ramesh Aravind and Ganesh

The makers have sparked curiosity about the film, which manages to bring Ramesh Aravind and Ganesh together on screen

A SHARADHAA

YOURS Sincerely Raam brings together multifaceted actors Ramesh Aravind and Ganesh, sparking curiosity from the very beginning. The film, marking Vikhyath's directorial debut, released a specially designed postcard, followed by a striking image of the two actors dressed as clowns among a group of soldiers, posing for photos, and another poster showing them riding a bicycle. This quirky and unexpected portrayal created an instant buzz.

Currently in production, the film recently had popular dance choreographer Johnny Master in Bengaluru shooting a song for it. Produced by Satya Rayala under Rayala Studios, *Yours Sincerely Raam* has now gained even more attention with rumours suggesting that Meera Jasmine might make her comeback to Kannada cinema through this film. The actor, currently busy with several projects in different languages, is no stranger to Kannada cinema. She starred in *Mauyra* (2004) with Puneeth Rajkumar, charmed audiences with her role in *Arasu* (2007), also starring Puneeth, and appeared in films like *Devaru Kotta Thangi* (2009) opposite Shivarajkumar, and *Ijjodu* (2010). Sources indicate that the team has had initial discussions with Meera Jasmine about her role and is working on bringing her back to Kannada cinema. An official announcement is expected once the terms are finalised.

The story of *Yours Sincerely Raam* spans multiple eras, with the 1990s serving as the heart of the narrative. Cinematographer Naveen Kumar handles the visuals, while J Anoop Seelin is composing the music.

Psycho Jayant gives a hilarious twist of fate in *Mr Rani*

CE FEATURES

Mr Rani is set to take audiences on a wild ride with Psycho Jayant, aka Deepak Subramanya, in a never-before-seen role. Known for his popular stint in the serial Lakshmi Nivas, Deepak as Jayant steps into the spotlight as a heroine in this comedic and dramatic tale. What's even more surprising? He came to the film industry aiming to be a hero, but fate had other plans, leading him to make his mark as a heroine!

According to the makers, the film is packed with unexpected twists, as Deepak plays a character who creates chaos and confuses everyone around him. They say that the plot is full of drama, and fans can expect to laugh, gasp, and be utterly stunned by how the story unfolds.

Director Madhuchandra, known for Selfie Mummy Google Daddy, promises a fresh take with *Mr Rani*. "This film is filled with surprises and humour that will keep the audience guessing," he says. The trailer, already having garnered over 3.5 million views, has left fans eagerly waiting to see how the quirky storyline will unfold.

The film also stars Parvathi Nair, whose character adds an exciting twist. It has cinematography by Ravindra Nath, who worked on Baahubali, and makeup by Chandana who has worked on the transformation of Deepak into Jayant and then into a heroine. *Mr Rani* releases on February 7, with tickets priced at 99 INR.

A still from the film

Toxic Shooting intensifies as Yash and four female stars unite in B'luru

Kiara Advani, Nayanthara, Tara Sutaria, and Huma Qureshi are said to be sharing great camaraderie on the sets of Geetu Mohandas' directorial

Yash

Kiara Advani

CE FEATURES

THE shooting of the much-anticipated film *Toxic*, starring Yash and directed by Geetu Mohandas, is swiftly progressing. After wrapping up shooting a big schedule in Mumbai and followed in Goa, the team has kicked off its fourth shooting schedule in Bengaluru, and it's clear that the film is on the fast track to becoming one of the year's biggest releases.

What makes this schedule particularly intriguing is that it marks the first time that all the powerhouse female stars of *Toxic*—Kiara Advani, Nayanthara, Tara Sutaria, and Huma Qureshi—have come together in one place, right in the garden city. Each actor has completed a few portions of the film in previous schedules, but this major phase in Bengaluru is where their collaborative energy has come together in one frame.

Sources tell us that the camaraderie between the actors is palpable, with reports of great rapport on set. In fact, Huma Qureshi, who had recently launched her book, *Zeba*, has shared a heartwarming gesture by gifting copies of her book to all the cast members. Kiara Advani and Tara Sutaria even took to their social media platforms to shout out their appreciation for Huma's latest work.

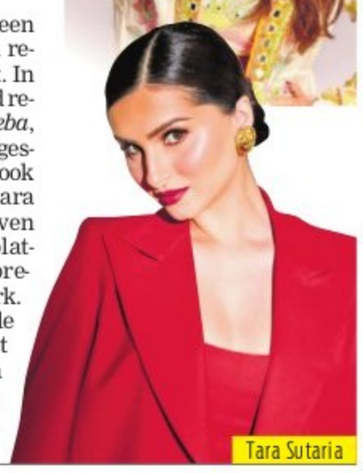
As the shooting schedule continues, it's evident that *Toxic* is a project built on a strong sense of teamwork. The schedule, which is set to run long, sees actors coming and going. With the shooting progressing at such a rapid pace, it is speculated that *Toxic* might be aiming for a late 2025 release, though the official date is still to be confirmed.

Joining the stellar cast are British actors Darrel D'Silva and Benedict Garrett, further adding to the international appeal of the film. Cinematography is handled by the brilliant Rajeev Ravi, and major stunts are also part of the action-packed storyline. In terms of music, the title teaser was directed by Jeremy Stack, while Ravi Basrur worked on the birthday special music for Yash.

Made in multiple languages, *Toxic*, produced by KVN Productions along with Yash's Monster Mind Creations is certainly one to watch for in 2025.

Huma Qureshi

Nayanthara


Tara Sutaria

A familiar trope, best as a one-time watch

A SHARADHAA

THE films of the science fiction genre have often cautioned against meddling with the space-time continuum. Apart from its strong hold in film industries across nations, this trope also keeps finding takers in Kannada films, with recent examples being *1980* (2021) and *Murphy* (2024), where the consequences of such interference unfold in intriguing and often unsettling ways. These films follow the chaos that ensues once the timelines are tampered with, offering us the chilling consequences. However, in Prajwal Devaraj's *Gana*, a faithful remake of the Telugu film Play Back, we're asked to consider the consequences in a rather less ominous yet equally intriguing light.

Gana, more like its contemporaries, handles the theme of deja vu. The plot kicks off with *Gana* (Prajwal Devaraj), an investigative journalist, who moves into a new house with his friend (Shivraj KR Pete). His journey takes an unexpected turn when an old-fashioned landline phone rings and connects him to Sujatha (Vedhika), a woman from a different era. Sujatha's calls, initially meant for someone else, continue to reach *Gana*, prompting her to enlist his help with a passport issue. Their attempts to meet in person—despite being in the same location—are thwarted when they realise they're living in different times: *Gana* in 2022 and Sujatha in 1993. The real twist begins when *Gana*, driven by a deep curiosity, begins to investigate a murder case that seems inexplicably linked to Sujatha. As he uncovers more, *Gana* learns that altering events in the past might just alter his present, leading to a dilemma of whether the past can truly be changed.

Written and directed by Hari Prasad Jakka, *Gana* doesn't deviate too far from the original source material and is a commercial entertainer. While it explores the intriguing concept of time travel and parallel timelines, it does so in a rather straightforward manner, with little attempt to break the mould or add unexpected twists. Despite the intriguing setup, the film lacks the darker, more atmospheric elements that often accompany this kind of narrative. The result is a plot that feels familiar and doesn't pack the punch one might expect from a sci-fi thriller.

GANA
Director: Hari Prasad Jakka
Cast: Prajwal Devaraj, Vedhika, Yasha Shivakumar, and Shivaraj K R Pete

RATING 2.5/5

Prajwal Devaraj's performance is arguably one of the film's strong points. He plays the role of a charming and determined journalist. However, we were left wanting more on the emotional front. Vedhika and her co-stars Yasha Shivakumar and Krishi Thappanda have relatively limited screen time, and while they fulfill their roles adequately, they don't have much to work with in terms of character development. Sampath Raj and Ravi Kale give solid performances, though again, the material doesn't give them much room to shine.

The film's nostalgic music and choreography are pleasant, but the action sequences, unfortunately, appear far too staged, detracting from the realism that could have heightened the tension. In terms of pacing, the film is a slow burn, with the real drama only unfolding in the second half. However, by then, the film has already struggled to gather momentum, making the latter half feel like a mild attempt at salvaging an otherwise mediocre experience.

The idea of parallel universes and cosmic portals holds significant potential for creating a compelling narrative. But *Gana* arrives somewhat late to the time-travel party, a genre that has been extensively explored in recent years. While the film doesn't break any new ground, it still offers enough for sci-fi fans to enjoy as a one-time watch, thanks in large part to its earnest performances. It may not fully deliver on its promise, but for those who appreciate the genre, *Gana* provides a glimpse into what might have been—a solid, albeit average, entry into the sci-fi thriller space.

A forest thriller trapped in its own loop

A SHARADHAA

KAADU Male is the latest entrant into the trend of the time-loop concept, but this concept is employed uniquely by setting the story against a mysterious forest. Directed by Samartha Manjunath, this supernatural thriller takes the audience into a parallel dimension, such as crop circles or the Bermuda Triangle, a phenomenon that feels real but at the same time is hard to explain.

The story follows Meera (Sangeetha Rajaram), a heartbroken woman who attempts to end her life but finds herself trapped in a strange, perilous forest. Enter Richard Thompson (Artha Harshan), an enigmatic figure who repeatedly saves her from a supernatural entity. Together, they must break the time loop, with the seventh day as their only hope for escape.

The screenplay is a knife with two ends as it progresses slowly and gets repetitive, but these are the same elements that build tension. Early on, the story feels stuck in a loop itself, but as the second character enters, the mystery slowly starts to unravel. The film's atmosphere is haunting, and its psychological complexity is built with subtlety rather than relying on flashy twists.

KAADU MALE
Director: Samartha Manjunath
Cast: Sangeetha Rajaram, Artha Harshan, Karthik Bhat and Gilli Manju
RATING 2.5/5

While Sangeetha Rajaram and Artha Harshan's performances bring a realness to their confusion and fear, the film struggles with clarity. Some moments don't fully make sense, and the narrative's complexity may leave viewers frustrated as they try to make sense of it all. The film's ambiguity may feel like an intentional mind game, but it can also come across as trying too hard to be impactful without delivering the payoff.

Despite flaws, *Kaadu Male* deserves credit for its brave experiments. It is an ambitious attempt at blending time loops, psychological tension, and supernatural elements. While its abstract nature and open-ended finish may not satisfy everyone, it calls on audiences to embrace the journey, question the strange, and maybe—just maybe—find those elusive 'aha' moments worth the confusion.